



★★★★ United States Senator for Ohio ★★★★★

# Sherrod Brown



## Report to Ohioans 2012



Sen. Brown discusses how the auto rescue saved and helped add manufacturing jobs across Ohio.



Sen. Brown visits the Hugo Boss factory and meets with workers after helping preserve the company's Cleveland-area jobs.



Sen. Brown presents a Navy veteran with overdue medals in a ceremony aboard the USS Cod.



Sen. Brown listens to seniors in Toledo, discusses tackling drug shortages.

Call Sen. Brown's Offices Toll-Free: 888-896-6446

## **Mission**

Sherrod Brown fights for the middle class because he believes that everyone who works hard and plays by the rules should be able to get ahead.

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# Message from Sen. Brown

Fellow Ohioans,

No matter where I travel throughout our state, I never fail to be impressed by what people from all walks of life are doing to strengthen the place we call home.

This report chronicles our work together in 2012.

Citizens of all 88 counties – farmers and firefighters, teachers and truck drivers, scientists and servicemembers, manufacturers and all middle class workers – are working to attract new economic development to our state.

And I'm committed to working with you to get things done.

With your support, the Senate passed my legislation – the largest bipartisan jobs bill to pass in Congress in recent months – to punish countries, like China, that cheat trade laws in an attempt to undercut Ohio-made products.

Together, we saw Ohio unemployment rate decline from about 7.7 percent in January to 6.7 percent in December. Investments in Ohio's auto industry by the top three auto manufacturers also put people back to work and spurred economic growth throughout the supply chain.

That's good news, but there is still much more work to do.

Let's energize our economy by creating a national manufacturing strategy that puts American workers first. Let's train Ohioans for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs. Let's plan for the future. We can start now by investing in agriculture – and that means passing a Farm Bill that works for Ohio.

In 2012, we faced record deficits, but took the first steps toward reducing our deficit through shared sacrifice. We must continue to reduce the deficit and address our fiscal challenges wisely – without cutting Medicare benefits or compromising Social Security.

In the next Congress, I will continue to fight for equality of opportunity for all Ohioans and I'll continue to stand up for middle-class families.

The fabric of our rich cultural heritage is intertwined with the opportunities available to all people from Lake Erie to the Ohio River. This year, we can move our economy forward and keep our state strong.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
U.S. Senator



# Sen. Brown is Here to Serve You:

## Constituent Services

One of Sen. Brown's most important responsibilities is to provide information and assistance to the people of Ohio. He is committed to listening to Ohioans, assisting Ohioans who have encountered difficulties with federal matters, and providing other constituent services. Please contact any of Sen. Brown's offices if there is any way he can be of assistance to you or help someone you know.

### Listening to Ohioans

Sen. Brown has held more than 200 roundtable discussions in all 88 of Ohio's counties. He also holds regular conference calls with constituent groups, hosts Thursday morning coffees with constituents in the Capitol, and responds to every letter and email he receives.

*Right: Sen. Brown listens to stakeholders discuss redeveloping vacant properties.*



### Constituent Calls

When the U.S. Senate is in session and Sen. Brown must be in Washington, he hosts regular conference calls with small groups of Ohioans to get their input on issues before Congress. On these "Constituent Calls" in 2012, Sen. Brown listened to a diverse mix of Ohioans, from farmers to small business owners to veterans to students and more.



### Constituent Coffees

Ohio constituents visiting Washington, D.C. are invited to Sen. Brown's weekly constituent coffee. Sen. Brown and his staff hold these coffees to stay in touch with Ohioans, welcome them to Washington, and get feedback on his work. For more information, please visit Sen. Brown's website: <http://brown.senate.gov>.

*Left: Sen. Brown speaks with Ohioans at a weekly Constituent Coffee*

### Correspondence

Sen. Brown places a high priority on prompt and accurate responses to letters, emails, and calls from constituents. In 2012, the Senator's office received and responded to more than 430,000 emails and letters from Ohioans. To send your comments to Sen. Brown, please visit his website: <http://brown.senate.gov>.

## **Assisting Ohioans with Federal Matters**

Sen. Brown is committed to assisting Ohioans who have encountered difficulties with federal matters. Ohioans can call Sen. Brown's state offices and work directly with a constituent services representative to obtain information or resolve an issue they are having with a federal agency. Common areas of inquiry include: Social Security and Medicare benefits, veterans' benefits, military service issues, passport or visa problems, housing matters, IRS issues, and more.

*Please note: Sen. Brown's office can only provide assistance on federal matters.  
When appropriate, Sen. Brown's office can help identify and locate state and local services.*

## **Helping Ohioans with Social Security**

Social Security provides critical support to millions of Ohio seniors, families, and individuals with disabilities. It's an important program for disabled workers and surviving family members who are guaranteed monthly income through Social Security. Sen. Brown's office can often assist Ohioans having difficulty with the claims process.

For example, a Central Ohio constituent contacted Sen. Brown's office and requested assistance with getting his Social Security disability benefits released. His claim had been awarded months earlier, but he had not yet received any benefits. He contacted his local Social Security office to no avail. Sen. Brown's office submitted an inquiry to the Social Security Administration. Within two weeks, the issue was resolved and the constituent began to receive benefits.

## **Assisting Ohioans with Medicare**

Sen. Brown has heard from many Ohio seniors struggling with rising health care and prescription drug costs. Ohio seniors shouldn't have to worry about how they're going to afford care. A Southwest Ohio constituent contacted Sen. Brown with a Medicare Secondary Payer problem. After an auto accident earlier in the year, the constituent had one doctor's office visit related to the accident. Medicare suspended payment on all medical claims due to a secondary payer issue. Sen. Brown's office contacted the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on the constituent's behalf. The agency discovered the error and corrected the constituent's record.

## **Helping Ohio Veterans and Military Families Access Benefits**

Sen. Brown, a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, has worked to reduce VA benefits disparities for Ohio veterans and to address the VA claims backlog. Sen. Brown's office also helps individual Ohio veterans and military families access the benefits they have earned and deserve. For example, a veteran from Appalachia contacted Sen. Brown's office regarding unpaid medical claims. After being hospitalized at a non-VA medical facility, the VA denied payment for the claims. Sen. Brown's office contacted the VA on his behalf, and after further review of the circumstances of the hospitalization, all of the medical bills were paid.

A Northeast Ohio veteran contacted Sen. Brown's office regarding his educational benefits. The veteran learned that the VA had lost his Montgomery GI Bill application for the fall semester. He resubmitted the documents but was told it would take 5-7 weeks for his payments to begin. Sen. Brown's office contacted the VA's St. Louis Education Office and the veteran's application was processed the same day. He received his payment five days later.

### **Obtaining Overdue or Replacement Medals for Ohio Veterans**

Replacing overdue medals is a small, but significant, way to honor and repay the tremendous work Ohio's veterans have undertaken on our behalf and serves as an inspiration to future generations from our state. Sen. Brown and his staff are honored to present so many Ohio veterans and their family members with well-earned medals.

In 2012, Sen. Brown's office helped more than 400 Ohio veterans or their families obtain records and overdue or replacement medals, including helping two WWII veterans from Cuyahoga County and one Afghanistan War veteran from Jackson County obtain overdue Purple Hearts. Sen. Brown's office also obtained more than 10 new bronze stars for Ohio veterans serving in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.



In August, Sen. Brown presented overdue and replacement military medals to an Operation Iraqi Freedom Navy veteran and a World War II Navy veteran in a ceremony aboard the USS Cod. Michael Dobec was stationed for 10 months at an aid station in Al Anbar Province, Iraq and served as a member of the combat outpost trauma team providing lifesaving interventions to battle-torn Marines and coalition forces. James Burton Tedrick served in the Navy's amphibious forces and participated in the invasion of Iwo Jima.

Sen. Brown encourages any veteran who thinks he or she may be entitled to overdue or replacement medals—or has any other question or needs assistance with the VA—to contact his office. Ohio veterans and family members of deceased veterans may request military records and medals by contacting Sen. Brown's Cleveland office (216) 522-7272 or toll-free (888) 896-6446.

### **Protecting Ohio Consumers**

Sen. Brown, chairman of the Senate Banking Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection, is committed to making the financial system work for all Americans. While citizens struggle to make ends meet, consumers must have the resources to remain protected against unscrupulous and harmful banking practices.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) seeks to bring oversight and transparency to checking accounts, credit cards, mortgages, credit reporting, and private student loans. You can submit a complaint to the CFPB if you have experienced difficulties with a financial product.

For example, a constituent from Trumbull County in Northeast Ohio contacted Sen. Brown because he believed that the verbal presentation of a bank's credit card terms was misleading. The constituent filed a complaint through the CFPB against the bank, and Sen. Brown's office monitored the complaint. The CFPB sent the consumer's complaint to the bank, which refunded the consumer \$47.67 in finance charges.

Ohioans who have a banking complaint are encouraged to contact Sen. Brown's office or contact the CFPB directly by visiting [www.ConsumerFinance.gov](http://www.ConsumerFinance.gov) or by calling 855-411-2372.

## **Other Services for Constituents**

### **Request a Flag**

Sen. Brown's staff can assist organizations and individuals in purchasing flags that have been flown over the U.S. Capitol. The flag is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity from the Architect of the Capitol. Please visit Sen. Brown's website for prices and information. Please be aware that due to heightened security procedures and high demand for flags, requests for flags must be submitted eight weeks prior to the desired delivery date. For prices and information on purchasing flags, please visit Sen. Brown's website or contact his office.

### **Attend a Military Academy**

Each year, Sen. Brown is honored to nominate outstanding students to attend the Air Force Academy, the United States Military Academy at West Point, the Naval Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy. In 2012, Sen. Brown nominated 60 Ohio students from 36 counties to attend these service academies. Interested individuals can apply through Sen. Brown's office during the spring of their junior year of high school. Applications for the class entering in Summer 2014 will be available on Sen. Brown's website in March 2013. Questions? Contact Sen. Brown's Academy Coordinator at: (216) 522-7272 or toll-free (888) 896-6446.

### **Visiting D.C. – Request a Tour**

If you are planning a trip to our nation's Capital, Sen. Brown's office can assist you in coordinating tours of the U.S. Capitol Building, Library of Congress, Supreme Court, and Bureau of Engraving and Printing. While every effort will be made to accommodate your tour request, due to limited availability and heightened security, please make your request at least three months in advance of your arrival. The easiest way to request a tour is to visit Sen. Brown's website.

### **Become an Intern**

Students considering a future in public service may be interested in interning for Sen. Brown in Washington, D.C. or in one of his state offices. Internships can last several weeks or for a full semester during the school year. Preference is given to students from Ohio or attending school in Ohio, as well as students who have completed at least one semester of college. To apply for an internship, please visit Sen. Brown's website or contact one of his offices directly.

**For more information, please visit Sen. Brown's website:**

[http://brown.senate.gov/ohio/constituent\\_services](http://brown.senate.gov/ohio/constituent_services)

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# Regional Highlights

Sen. Brown and his staff are involved in an array of projects and activities across the state to improve the lives of Ohioans. The following pages provide an overview of 2012 project highlights in each region of the state.

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## Appalachian Ohio Regional Highlights

### Creating Jobs and Promoting Economic Development

#### **Applauding Yorkville Steel Plant Acquisition and New Ohio Steel Jobs**

RG Steel, which owned a plant in Jefferson County, filed for bankruptcy in May, leaving the workers and community unsure of the future. As Sen. Brown worked to find a company to buy the plant, he appealed to U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Secretary Hilda Solis and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Commissioner Douglas Shulman asking them to ensure that eligible RG Steel employees and retirees receive benefits to help them transition to new jobs, and if needed, also purchase affordable health coverage. In October, DOL announced that an incremental National Emergency Grant (NEG) of \$450,777 would continue providing reemployment services to workers affected by layoffs at six RG Steel facilities, including Yorkville.

That same month, after Sen. Brown worked with Esmark, the United Steel Workers, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to move a deal forward, Esmark announced the acquisition of RG Steel's plant in Yorkville. The company expects to restart the Yorkville facility in January 2012 and bring 160 jobs back to the area. The completed acquisition will bring the company's total Ohio investment to \$85 million and increase its number of Ohio employees to 350.

Esmark will rename the Yorkville company the Ohio Cold Rolling Company. The newly-named facility will be majority owned and operated by Esmark Steel Group. Ohio Coatings Company will become a 50-50 joint venture between Esmark and TCC Steel.

#### **Training More Ohioans for Jobs in Emerging Shale Development Industry**

Shale development has potential to bring new economic development and create jobs in Ohio. In addition to protecting our public safety and health, we must ensure that these jobs are going to Ohioans—not out-of-state workers.

Eastern Gateway Community College (EGCC) offers several training programs, including a U.S. Department of Labor-funded initiative that works to ensure that local residents are qualified and can be hired for new jobs in the oil and gas industry. In June, Sen. Brown visited the shale



gas training center at EGCC in Steubenville to outline his plan to train out-of-work Ohioans for jobs in emerging, high-tech industries like shale development. The Retrain America and ShaleNet programs at EGCC are designed to train locals for shale exploration positions. Sen. Brown was joined by Tracee Joltes, assistant director of workforce outreach at EGCC, and Kim Cline, the project manager at Progress Alliance, the economic development partnership between Jefferson County, the City of Steubenville, and the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, to discuss how the school's shale training programs are helping ensure local residents fill jobs in the shale industry.

Sen. Brown also visited Zane State College's Willett Pratt Training Center in Cambridge to meet with students training for welding jobs. Sen. Brown was joined by a student currently enrolled in the shale development training program and by Zane State President Paul Brown to discuss the *SECTORS Act*. Zane State offers the training needed to fill jobs in shale development and the Safeland Training course required by oil and gas companies for employees and contractors. Zane State offers courses such as welding, oil and gas business programs, and accounting.



Finally, Sen. Brown met with employees at TremCar's Dover facility, which manufactures tankers for use in shale development and the petroleum industry. He was joined by Roger Bond, the superintendent of the Buckeye Career Center, and Jacques Tremblay, CEO of TremCar to highlight his plan to train out-of-work Ohioans for jobs in emerging, high-tech industries. TremCar has been coordinating with the Buckeye Career Center and Stark State College to train Ohioans for new jobs in the natural gas industry.

### **Continuing Clean-up and Recovery Efforts in Piketon**

The American Centrifuge Plant (ACP) in Piketon can be an economic engine to power Southern Ohio. Sen. Brown is working closely with the community and is leading the fight in Congress to accelerate the cleanup, stabilize jobs, and advance redevelopment of the former Piketon Gaseous Diffusion Plant.

Sen. Brown has been working with the community, Congress, and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to ensure that the site – using multiple revenue streams – has the funding to keep the cleanup and the workforce stable. In January, Sen. Brown held a forum in Piketon to discuss the cleanup, and he pressed a top DOE official for a progress report on the cleanup of the site. Sen. Brown's work with DOE helped stabilize the cleanup workforce at more than 2,300 workers.

The Site Specific Advisory Board that Sen. Brown helped to create four years ago continued its work in developing plans for future reuse of the site. On the site, USEC, Inc. intends to complete the construction and operation of the ACP, which would ensure that the United States maintains

a domestic uranium enrichment capability vital to our national security. ACP faced a number of hurdles this year but continues to remain on track and is progressing towards receiving a DOE Loan Guarantee, which would help create 4,000 jobs in Southern Ohio.

In June, Sen. Brown announced a framework for USEC and the DOE that will advance critical resources for the ACP. The framework includes a cost-sharing agreement that gives the ACP resources for research, development, and deployment (RD&D) by utilizing “tails,” a byproduct of uranium enrichment, and self-funding from USEC. In the first year, DOE will provide approximately \$88 million by taking title to and disposal responsibility of depleted uranium tails from USEC. USEC will provide an additional \$22 million in the first phase of the project, representing a 20 percent cost share.

Sen. Brown also led a bipartisan effort to include \$150 million in the Senate highway bill to help ensure that the ACP is in the strongest position possible to receive a loan guarantee from DOE. The U.S. House of Representatives, however, failed to include critical resources for Piketon in their highway bill. Sen. Brown continued the fight, and in September, Congress approved \$100 million for the centrifuge project – funding the project for six additional months. The funds received bicameral and bipartisan support and put the project closer to a DOE loan guarantee. Sen. Brown also secured an additional \$150 million in funding for the ACP in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in December.

Sen. Brown will continue to work to ensure ACP is in the strongest position possible to keep Ohioans at work, expedite commercialization of ACP technology, and protect national security.

### **Opening a New Entrepreneurship and Technology Center at Ohio University-Chillicothe**

A representative from Sen. Brown’s office attended the February grand opening ceremony for the newly-renovated Entrepreneurship and Technology Center at Ohio University’s Chillicothe campus. The new building represents Ohio University’s commitment to providing high-tech, quality facilities and equipment to students and will offer Ohio’s future business leaders opportunities and support to develop critical skills and launch businesses that will create jobs in Ross County.

In 2012, Sen. Brown reintroduced the *Business Incubator Promotion Act*, which would make



more communities in Ohio eligible to receive funds that support business incubators through the Economic Development Administration (EDA). This bill would encourage the formation of business incubators in distressed communities to promote innovation and entrepreneurship, helping regions to create high-skill, high-wage jobs. It would also give EDA authority to reduce the non-federal share, or local match, to 20 percent of the cost of a project or to waive the local share if the unemployment rate of

the area exceeds 12 percent. These incubators are places where entrepreneurs can get the support they need during the most difficult startup phase of a new business.

### **Equipping Start-Up Businesses in Appalachian Ohio with the Tools They Need to Grow**

Incubators like the Muskingum County Business Incubator (MCBI) are critical in helping Ohio's small businesses grow. MCBI has helped launch more than 25 businesses and provided consultant services for another 300 businesses.

In April, Sen. Brown visited the MCBI in Zanesville to unveil a new jobs initiative that would increase resources for business incubators to help start-up companies. While there, he highlighted TicketCrush.com, a ticket brokerage firm based at MCBI, which is planning to expand. TicketCrush.com is one of the many home-grown businesses that are expanding and hiring new workers thanks to business incubators and is MCBI's first \$2 million company.



### **Creating a Regional Business Workforce Training Center in Nelsonville**

Economic development is on the rise in Ohio's small towns and rural communities. With support from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), new funds are available to help train workers for good-paying Ohio jobs. In August, Sen. Brown announced an ARC grant award for the Tri-County Career Center in Athens County to create a custom training facility that existing area businesses can use to train incumbent workers as well as new hires. The grant will fund training programs for topics ranging from customer service, hazardous materials, computer applications, regulatory compliance, and human relations policy.

### **Promoting Economic Growth at the Coshocton Federal Credit Union**

The Coshocton Federal Credit Union is a critical resource for maintaining and growing Ohio's economy. Sen. Brown announced new federal resources for the Coshocton Federal Credit Union awarded through a competitive grant from the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI). The CDFI, administered by the U.S. Treasury Department, helps rural and low-income communities that lack access to affordable financial products and services. The resources will help build upon Coshocton County's existing strengths while bringing new development to the region.

## **Helping Appalachian Ohio Small Businesses Grow and Add Jobs**

### **Making Low-Interest Loans Available for Small Businesses Affected by Severe Weather**

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) can provide federal, low-interest disaster loans to agricultural cooperatives, small aquaculture businesses, most private non-profit organizations, and small business owners affected by severe weather. Sen. Brown announced that small business owners in Athens, Gallia, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton Counties who experienced financial loss due to excessive rain, flooding, and flash floods in 2012



are eligible for this federal assistance from SBA. These loans will help Ohio agricultural co-ops, non-profits, and small businesses rebuild and get back on their feet.

### **Helping Small Businesses in Appalachia Access Capital**

Small businesses—especially in rural communities—are the backbone of our economy, creating up to two-thirds of new jobs in our country. Access to capital is vital for these small businesses.

In March, Sen. Brown announced new federal resources to help bolster two small businesses in Guernsey County. The Ohio Bridge Corporation and C-Z Company will receive a business and industry guaranteed loan from U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development to refinance debt in order to improve access to capital and obtain better rates and terms. The financial assistance is expected to save 130 jobs.

Sen. Brown also announced in May that a Holmes County business will receive a federal loan from USDA to save 30 existing jobs and create two new positions. Trico Enterprises, in Millersburg, will receive a \$1.4 million loan from USDA's Rural Development branch. According to USDA Rural Development, the loan will be used to purchase an existing saw mill and woodworking manufacturing facility. Funding from this project will save 30 jobs and will create two new jobs.

In June, USDA's Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) Program awarded funds to the Meigs County Community Improvement Corporation. The grant will establish a revolving loan fund for local, emerging businesses. Because of these federal resources, small businesses throughout Ohio will have a better shot at creating new opportunities and jobs in small towns and rural areas. The new loan fund will be used for gap financing, and loans will be granted to small and emerging businesses on a need basis.

## **Building Appalachian Ohio Infrastructure and Transportation**

### **Expanding Broadband Access Across Appalachian Ohio**

Expanding broadband service is essential to growing the economies of Ohio's rural communities. Bridging the "digital divide" will ensure that all Ohioans have access to web-based information and services, allowing rural communities and businesses to compete in the global economy.



In September, Sen. Brown joined business owners in Chillicothe to highlight how broadband expansion has helped improve business and promote economic development in Southern Ohio. He visited Horizon Telcom to highlight the Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC) project that will expand access to broadband for 34 counties in Appalachia. When completed, the project will deploy more than 1,900 miles of fiber optic network to connect nearly 600 community anchors,

including schools, hospitals, and libraries. OMMC and Horizon's cooperation will help promote economic growth and improve the competitiveness of Ohio communities in underserved areas. This is an investment in the future of Ohio.

Additionally, a representative from Sen. Brown's office attended a ribbon cutting to mark the beginning of a last-mile expansion project to connect Washington County with broadband access. Smart Networks signed a contract with the Washington County Commissioners that will close the digital divide for the entire county, promoting economic growth and improving the competitiveness of the region.

In July, The Federal Communications Commission's Connect America Fund awarded Frontier Communications Corp. and CenturyLink in Ohio with \$1,814,100 to build broadband infrastructure in more than 2,300 locations around Ohio over the next three years.

Sen. Brown has been a longtime advocate for expanding broadband access in Appalachia. He led the charge to secure U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding for the OMMC project through the Recovery Act. In April, Sen. Brown introduced legislation to expand access to broadband for Ohio's rural communities. *The Connecting Rural America Act* would strengthen existing U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs that provide for the construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment to provide broadband service to underserved, rural communities.

Sen. Brown's bill reauthorizes the Rural Broadband Loan Program, created in the 2002 Farm Bill and modified in the 2008 Farm Bill, through 2017 and adds a grant component to the existing program. Under this legislation, USDA would be authorized to provide grants, in addition to the current grant-loan package, to specifically target small, remote, and high-poverty communities.

Currently, Ohio has the 40th lowest rate of rural broadband availability in the U.S. with more than 40 percent of Ohio's rural population lacking high-speed internet access. By connecting rural Ohio to the web and bridging the "digital divide," Ohio's rural schools, businesses, and communities have an opportunity to compete on a national and global level.

### **Improving Rail Infrastructure and Creating Jobs in Lawrence County**

The Point Industrial Park, in Lawrence County, will soon have access to the Norfolk Southern Heartland Corridor Railroad, boosting economic development and attracting new businesses, because of new federal resources announced by Sen. Brown. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded a grant to build a rail spur connecting the industrial park to a double-stacked train car line. According to the Lawrence Economic Development Corporation's application, the project will save 500 jobs and create 186 jobs. By linking the Point Industrial Park with this critical transit artery, Southern Ohio businesses will gain access to new markets to send and sell their goods throughout the United States and demonstrate how transportation improvements can create jobs and attract new economic development in Lawrence County.

### **Saving and Creating Jobs with Greenfield Rail Line Upgrade**

Improving the Greenfield rail line will create construction jobs now and make permanent upgrades attracting new companies to Highland County and allowing existing ones to expand markets and ramp-up production. In March, Sen. Brown urged the Economic Development

Administration (EDA) to approve the Village of Greenfield's grant application, despite EDA notification to the community of deficiencies in its application. Though significant improvements were made to address the deficiencies, the application was denied in July. After working with Sen. Brown's office to strengthen the application—and a September meeting where representatives from Sen. Brown's office urged EDA to move forward—the application was approved.

This funding is expected to create 72 jobs, save more than 800 jobs at local companies including Johnson Controls, Huhtamaki, and Candlelite, and provide an ideal site for future economic investment.

The EDA grant will allow the Village of Greenfield to move forward on structural enhancements to the line that runs from Greenfield to Midland. The improvements will provide regional manufacturers with more reliable transportation options and allow the region's industrial manufacturing cluster to grow.

### **Protecting the Historic Integrity of Village of Zoar during Levee Study and Construction**

The Zoar levee in Tuscarawas County was built to help one of Ohio's historic communities thrive along the Tuscarawas River, but this aging structure is in urgent need of repair or replacement. In September, Sen. Brown joined with Ohioans in and around Tuscarawas County in calling for the Village of Zoar to be preserved. He and Sen. Portman introduced legislation to protect the Village of Zoar as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) studies ways to manage the town's aging levee. The bill would require the USACE to preserve the historic integrity of Zoar in any study or construction activities related to the village's levee.

During visits to Tuscarawas County, Sen. Brown heard from Ohioans who want the Village of Zoar to be preserved. The legislation ensures that Zoar is protected by requiring the USACE to preserve its historic integrity—either while studying the levee, or while rebuilding it. There is widespread, bipartisan support for protecting Zoar, and Sen. Brown is committed to ensuring that this extraordinary village remains intact.

### **Updating Water Infrastructure in Appalachia**

Ohio's rural communities and small towns face a heavy burden when financing infrastructure projects. Communities need water and sewer upgrades to keep the public safe, protect water sources from pollution and contamination, and to remain economically competitive. Sen. Brown is working to help Appalachian communities struggling to afford costly but necessary renovations to water and sewer systems.

In February, Sen. Brown introduced *the Clean Water Affordability Act*, legislation that would help communities make renovations to outdated sewer systems, while improving water quality and keeping rates affordable for residents and small business.

Sen. Brown announced that the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) awarded grants to the Villages of Adena, Reedsville, New Straitsville, Seaman Village, and to the Ohio EPA for the Village of Belle Valley to modernize water systems and provide residents with improved water quality and encourage investment.

Sen. Brown and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also announced a grant award totaling \$388,000 for the town of Neffs in Belmont County. The funds will be used to replace outdated septic systems with a new public sewer system and will help support critically important infrastructure improvements in Neffs, protecting public health and attracting new jobs.

### **Maintaining Roads in Appalachia**

Motorists, residents, and businesses in Appalachian Ohio deserve efficient and safe roads. Sen. Brown announced that the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) awarded a \$469,500 grant to the City of Marietta to widen and resurface 0.8 miles of Mill Creek Road. According to the ARC, the project will provide much improved access to an industrial site serving the bio-medical industry and other businesses. The project will support the retention of more than 600 full-time jobs. Local resources will also provide \$150,000 in funding.

Sen. Brown also announced that Green Township will receive a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development to purchase a new backhoe to maintain the roads under its jurisdiction.

## **Supporting Servicemembers, Veterans, and Law Enforcement**

### **Connecting Ohio Veterans with New Employment Opportunities**

Sen. Brown was an original cosponsor of the *VOW to Hire Heroes Act*, a veterans jobs law enacted in November that created the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). VRAP is a joint Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Labor training initiative that provides unemployed veterans between the ages of 35 and 60 the opportunity to pursue training for new careers in high demand occupations.

In July and August, Sen. Brown traveled across Ohio to encourage eligible Ohio veterans to apply. From Youngstown to Dayton to Toledo, Sen. Brown joined veterans who will train for new careers at Ohio schools to encourage more Ohio veterans to apply for VRAP assistance.

In July, Sen. Brown held a news conference call with Tony Blankenship, a jobless veteran from Belmont County to encourage more veterans to apply for the program. Mr. Blankenship is an Air Force veteran who served from 1991-2000.

He was accepted into the VRAP program and used the funds to begin studying radiology at Belmont College this fall.



### **Helping Appalachian Police Departments to Hire Recently-Returned Veterans**

Too many police departments across Ohio have had to lay off police officers due to budget challenges, while too many recently-returned veterans have struggled to find work. Safe communities depend on the expertise of well-trained law enforcement officers. The new “Vets to COPS” program helps police departments hire recently returned military veterans and invests



in the men and women who devote their lives to protecting Ohioans—both as members of our Armed Forces and as law enforcement officers.

Sen. Brown announced that the McArthur Police Department in Vinton County and the Greenfield Police Department in Highland County will receive new federal resources from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to each hire a recently-returned military veteran through the new Vets to COPS program. The Vets to COPS program requires that all new officers hired under the grant must be military veterans that have served at least 180 days of active military service, any part of which occurred on or after September 11, 2001. The funds will enable the McArthur and Greenfield Police Departments to hire a highly-trained, dedicated public servant to keep our streets safe.

### **Listening to Ohio's Veterans**

Many of Ohio's veterans continue serving our nation long after leaving active duty. Sen. Brown remains committed to assisting veterans facing difficulties in transitioning from service to civilian or struggling to attain the benefits and services they have earned. In June, representatives from Sen. Brown's office convened roundtable listening sessions with veterans in St. Clairsville, Tuscarawas, Marietta, and Zanesville. Sen. Brown's representatives were on-hand to assist with casework issues and receive feedback on issues including access to care, claims processing, information dissemination, veterans' service improvements, and more.

### **Bolstering Firefighter Safety to Improve Firefighter Preparedness and Response**

Ohio's first responders put their lives on the line every day. Federal resources ensure that firefighters across Appalachian Ohio have the resources they need to perform their jobs safely. Sen. Brown announced new federal resources awarded to fire departments in Athens, Belmont, Holmes, Jefferson, and Muskingum Counties. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grants program will provide the funds to help operation and safety.

## **Protecting and Supporting Consumers and the Middle Class**

### **Helping Seniors Avoid Financial Scams**

Criminals may see seniors—who have often saved their entire lives to enjoy retirement—as ripe targets for financial fraud. As part of Financial Literacy Month and an ongoing effort to equip citizens with financial management skills and ways to avoid fraud and scams, Sen. Brown's office and the Federal Trade Commission held a seminar in Cambridge to help seniors avoid scams and protect their finances. By providing seniors with the tools to protect themselves, we can prevent scams while providing retirees with the information they need to keep their nest egg safe and sound.

### **Helping Appalachian Ohioans Recover from Severe Storms**

Last summer's severe storms left many Ohio families and small businesses hurting. New funds from the U.S. Department of Labor's National Emergency Grant (NEG) award will help Athens, Belmont, Scioto, Vinton, and Washington Counties recover from storms and flooding in the spring of 2011. This funding will help small businesses, families, and communities throughout Southeast Ohio while putting Ohioans to work.

## **Encouraging the Safe Disposal of Unused Medications**

Abuse of prescription drugs—especially painkillers—can devastate communities. Too many teenagers can get prescription drugs from the family medicine cabinet or from family and friends who no longer use the medicine they were legally prescribed. All prescription medications—especially painkillers like Oxycontin and Vicodin—should be disposed of safely to prevent them from falling into the wrong hands.

As part of National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, Sen. Brown visited the Zanesville prescription “take-back” site and urged Muskingum County residents to safely dispose of unused prescription drugs. Sen. Brown was joined by Health Commissioner Corey Hamilton and Steve Carrel, executive director of Muskingum Behavioral Health at the Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department to discuss efforts to crack down on the prescription drug abuse epidemic.

When criminals defraud the Medicaid system to fuel prescription abuse, it’s a one-two punch to the stomach of Ohio taxpayers. Prescription drug abuse must be treated like the epidemic it is – and that means drawing a hard line against criminals, fraud, and abuse. Sen. Brown is working to establish a Medicaid lock-in program to help stop those Medicaid enrollees who have been misusing their Medicaid cards from continuing this costly and dangerous practice. The doctor-shoppers and pharmacy hoppers are on notice: Ohio taxpayers will not finance criminal activity or feed drug addiction.

## **Supporting Ohio’s Students**

### **Keeping College Affordable for Ohio Students**

Now more than ever, a college degree is the key to good-paying jobs and a secure future. But increasingly high debt means fewer students will be able to buy a home, start a business or continue on to graduate school. Students who are already struggling to afford higher education should not worry about high interest rates and bills rolling in after graduation.

In September, Sen. Brown joined students at Ohio University (OU) to discuss efforts to keep college affordable for all Ohioans. He heard from OU students who are struggling with college loans and called on Obama administration officials to ease the burden for Ohio students and emphasized the serious economic implications that increasing levels of student loan debt have for our economy.



Sen. Brown led the fight in the Senate to block the interest rates for federally-subsidized Stafford loans from doubling from 3.4 to 6.8 percent on July 1, 2012. Legislation to maintain the current rate was included in legislation passed by Congress in June. Sen. Brown will continue working to ensure that all Ohio students have access to fair

loan options that provide affordable payment plans, loan forgiveness, deferment options, or cancellation rights.

### **Welcoming Ohio Students to the Nation's Capital**

Sen. Brown met with roughly 70 eighth-grade students and staff from Newcomerstown Middle School, in Tuscarawas County, on their eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C. in May. Sen. Brown always enjoys meeting with students both at home in Ohio and in our nation's capital. The Newcomerstown Middle School students asked questions that demonstrate the excellence of Ohio's schools and teachers. Sen. Brown will continue to fight for the resources needed to ensure that their future remains bright and these students become active participants in our democracy. Newcomerstown Middle School serves 270 students living in Coshocton, Guernsey, and Tuscarawas counties.

## **Supporting Social Security, Medicare, and Healthcare**

### **Welcoming Vital Health Service Improvements to Noble County**

For more than 80 years, the Noble County Health Department (NCHD) has provided vital resources, education, and access to affordable health care services. In 2010, Sen. Brown secured nearly \$400,000 in federal funding for NCHD to support renovations, community services, and energy efficiency upgrades. Those upgrades were on display at NCHD's March open house.

"We have upgraded to a building that extends its life, increases functionality, and lowers operation costs. Public service is our role; the building is just one tool in providing that public service. We cannot begin to appropriately thank Sen. Brown for his efforts in obtaining this funding," said Noble County Health Commissioner Shawn Ray.

### **Expanding Access to Care at Community Health Centers**



Community health centers play a vital role in Ohio's health care system, reducing emergency room use and providing critical services to patients who otherwise would have no access to care. Ohio Hills Health Services in Barnesville, a community health center in Belmont County, and Community Action Agency of Columbiana County received federal resources to expand access to health care. The funds, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services

Administrations (HRSA) Health Center New Access Point grants, will create health center jobs and help more Ohioans access more affordable preventive care rather than rely on costly emergency room visits – that are often billed to taxpayers.

### **Improving and Upgrading Medical Equipment in Appalachian Health Care Systems**

Quality health care services—especially in rural communities—are crucial to every Ohioan's safety. The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) awarded new federal resources to the

Genesis HealthCare System in Zanesville for critical emergency response equipment. Genesis HealthCare System will use the grant to purchase 12-Lead Electrocardiogram (EKG) monitors and transmission systems for use in all 24 EMS and fire departments in Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum, and Perry Counties. The EKGs will help prevent, diagnose, and treat heart attacks for hundreds of patients each year. Residents and patients in Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum, and Perry counties rely on a modern health care system unhindered by geographical distance through the Genesis HealthCare System. These federal resources will ensure that Eastern Ohioans experiencing cardiac arrest will receive efficient, high-tech care.

In June, Sen. Brown announced that Adena Health System in Ross County will receive a loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to purchase new cardiac equipment, including EKGs and defibrillators. These new resources will allow Adena Health System to respond quickly to medical emergencies and save lives in southern Ohio.

According to USDA Rural Development, the loan will be used to purchase 12 Lead EKGs and 8 LIFEPAK 15 Monitors/Defibrillators for an EMS Telemetry project. This new equipment will allow Emergency Medical Technicians to record an EKG in the patient's home, view information on-site, and electronically transmit it to the closest emergency health care provider. Because emergency response times in rural areas are significantly higher than state and national averages—and heart disease and heart attack mortality rates are much higher in Ross County than state and national rates—the equipment will be used to improve both delivery and quality of care for cardiac patients in South-central Ohio.

The Highland Joint Township District Hospital in Highland County also received new federal resources to upgrade the hospital's breast cancer screening services. Sen. Brown announced that the ARC awarded a grant for Highland Joint Township District Hospital in Hillsboro to purchase a Siemens Healthcare Mammomat Inspiration Digit Mammography System. According to the ARC, the new system will allow the hospital to conduct 3,000 mammograms annually. The new system will replace the analog film unit that the hospital currently uses

### **Expanding Nutrition Program in Nine Athens-Area Schools**

School nutrition programs ensure that students get the healthy food they need to perform well both in and out of the classroom. *Live Healthy Appalachia*, a program that has proven to reduce body mass index, influence food choices among children and parents, and encourage improvements in school lunch programs, received new federal resources to expand its Food is Elementary nutrition program. Sen. Brown announced that the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) awarded a grant to *Live Healthy Appalachia* to expand its program in Athens County. These new federal resources will help Athens County students establish good eating habits so that they can live long and healthy lives.

## **Supporting Appalachian Ohio's Agricultural and Rural Economy**

### **Championing Rural Communities**

During Ohio's Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) conference in Columbus in August, Sen. Brown was named RCAP's "Rural Champion of the Year." Strong rural communities and a thriving rural economy demand investment in business development and



basic infrastructure. Sen. Brown fought to include support for rural communities in the 2012 Farm Bill and will continue to work to pass a five-year farm bill that will create jobs, boost development, and promote growth in rural America.

### **Supporting Appalachian Agricultural Producers Affected by Flash Flooding**

Ohio producers whose livelihoods are threatened by no fault of their own deserve economic relief so they can replant and rebuild. Sen. Brown announced new federal assistance through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for Ohio farmers and agricultural producers in nine Southern Ohio counties who experienced crop or production loss due to severe weather this spring. USDA designated nine southern Ohio counties as disaster areas due to excessive rain and flash flooding in May.

The USDA disaster designation will support southern Ohio farmers and our state's largest industry. With this disaster designation, primary and contiguous counties are eligible to be considered for assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) for emergency loans as well as the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. USDA designated Gallia, Jackson, and Meigs Counties as primary counties and Athens, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton Counties as contiguous counties.

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# Central Ohio Regional Highlights

## Creating Jobs and Promoting Economic Development

### Increasing Jobs through Honda's Investment in Central Ohio

Since November 2010, Honda has announced more than \$500 million in investments in its Ohio facilities—creating jobs and strengthening Ohio's auto supply chain. Only a few years ago, our nation's auto industry was on the brink of disaster, but today – because of Ohio's dedicated, highly-skilled workforce and the leadership of officials at Honda – more than 13,500 Ohioans are employed and Honda is now a vital part of our state's economy.

Following a meeting with Honda officials at the Detroit Auto Show in January, Sen. Brown welcomed the news that Honda investments at the Anna Engine Plant and the Russels Point Transmission Plant will bring 150 jobs to Ohio. In February, Honda announced that the company will invest \$98 million at the Anna Engine Plant, in addition to a \$120 million investment at the Russels Point Transmission Plant announced last year.

### Preserving Jobs at Springfield's Navistar Plant

Navistar, in Springfield, faced an uncertain future when the company announced layoffs for Springfield workers in 2011. Sen. Brown worked closely with the United Auto Workers (UAW)



and the Springfield community to keep the plant open. In February 2012, Navistar announced that it plans to hire 40 new workers at the Springfield plant. Because of Navistar's dedicated workforce and the strong leadership of the UAW, production at the Springfield plant has doubled and employees are back to work. In October, Brown visited the plant, touring the factory floor, meeting with workers, and discussing the positive trends over the past several years in the manufacturing sector in Ohio.

### Urging the Obama Administration to Locate Patent and Trademark Office in Columbus

Ohio offers the advantages of a large state—world-class universities, skilled labor, and a legacy of innovation coupled with Midwestern values and work ethic. As the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) considered sites for a new satellite office, Sens. Brown and Portman and Reps. Stivers and Tiberi urged the Obama administration to place the U.S. PTO office in Columbus.

In January, the Ohio legislators wrote to the Director of the U.S. PTO, in which they noted Ohio's long and storied history of innovation. Central Ohio is an ideal site for the office because 40 percent of the workforce holds bachelors or advanced degrees, and more than 140,000 individuals are enrolled as college students.

### **Promoting Growth in Ohio's Aerospace Supply Chain**

Ohio is not just a leading auto supply state; it is also a leading aerospace supply state. In October, Sen. Brown joined the Airbus Vice President of Procurement and President of the National Composite Center (NCC) in Columbus to announce an agreement to further strengthen the Ohio manufacturing and material supply chain for Airbus. Airbus Americas, NCC, and the Dayton Development Coalition will work together to promote new growth and business opportunities through Ohio's aerospace supply chain.



### **Creating Jobs at New IBM Analytics Center**

Scaling up research and development (R&D) is not a Republican or Democratic issue; it is not a private sector or government issue; creating jobs and investing in new R&D is about doing what is best for Ohio. Sen. Brown applauded the November opening of IBM's new analytics center in Dublin that is expected to create 500 new jobs in Central Ohio. According to IBM, the new center will advance R&D, client services, and skills training in the areas of analytics, big data, and cognitive computing. The company will add as many as 500 new consultants and R&D professionals over the next three years. IBM will also partner with the Ohio State University to collaborate on curriculum to train the next generation of analytics professionals.

### **Protecting Ohio Call Center Jobs**

Most Ohioans that have had to call a major company for a service repair or to get an answer about their bill have ended up speaking with a worker in a different time zone, on a different continent. When companies send call center jobs overseas, they don't just frustrate consumers—they hurt our economy as well. With more than 198,000 call center jobs in Ohio, Sen. Brown joined local call center workers in Columbus in September to announce his support for new legislation that could keep these jobs in the U.S. by requiring companies to notify consumers that their calls are being transferred abroad. Sen. Brown discussed how the legislation could encourage companies to keep their call center jobs here in the United States. The bill would stop giving American tax dollars to big businesses that ship call center jobs overseas.

### **Promoting Tourism and Boosting Economic Development in Central Ohio**

Ohio has a strong tourism industry but there is more to be done to make sure visitors know about all of Ohio's world-class attractions. During a working conference call in July, Sen. Brown discussed strategies for boosting Ohio's tourism industry with representatives from the Ohio Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus, the Columbus Zoo, the Greater Columbus Convention Center, and other Ohio stakeholders. They were also joined by Brand USA, a new public-private entity that seeks to bring more visitors to the U.S. and to create economic activity and jobs in Ohio and across the nation. Washington needs Ohio's ideas and it is important for Sen. Brown to hear from Ohio's tourism industry leaders to help put their ideas into action.

### **Addressing the Challenges of Shale Development**

Ohio has already seen how development of the Marcellus and Utica shale has boosted our state's steel and chemical industries, created jobs, and provided a cleaner burning fuel source. But we must ensure that our air and water are protected for current and future generations. Sen. Brown announced that Ohio University and Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus will receive resources for projects to advance sustainable shale development practices. The grant, awarded through the U.S. Department of Energy, will address potential issues while reducing the environmental impact of shale development. The research at Battelle and Ohio University will advance safety while minimizing any negative environmental impact from shale development.

### **Advancing Energy Research Projects in Central Ohio**

Clean energy is the future of our nation and can bolster Ohio's economy and create jobs. In August, Sen. Brown announced that Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus and Det Norske Veritas in Dublin will receive funds to help improve electrical grid efficiency and reliability and provide increased energy security to the armed forces. The projects are 2 of 19 projects in 14 states supported through the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy program's Advanced Management and Protection of Energy-Storage Devices and Small Business Innovation Research Programs. Sen. Brown believes that increased research and development on new clean energy technologies will drive innovation, lower costs, and reduce our dependence on foreign energy.

## **Strengthening Trade Enforcement to Protect Central Ohio Jobs**

### **Fighting Unfair Trade Practices to Aid Ohio Steel**

With China, our trade deficit is ever expanding, and every time China dumps cheaper goods in our markets and blocks their markets from our goods, it means fewer jobs for American workers. It means American businesses like Nucor in Marion are being undercut and undermined. During a visit to Nucor in April, Sen. Brown outlined efforts to keep jobs in Ohio by fighting back against unfair trade practices and called on the House of Representatives to pass two Senate-approved, bipartisan pieces of legislation to stand up for American steel manufacturers that are being undermined by foreign competition.



### **Keeping Manufacturing in Ohio at Circleville's DuPont Plant**

Sen. Brown fought to pass the Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credit and has championed legislation to extend the now-expired tax credit. In May, Sen. Brown applauded the completion of the DuPont plant in Circleville, which received \$50 million in assistance through the Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credit. The DuPont project created more than 70 permanent jobs and 230 construction jobs at its Circleville plant.

### **Standing Up For a Hilliard Manufacturer**

The Mexican government is using unfair trade practices to illegally shut out American Manufacturers like Advanced Drainage Systems (ADS). Based in Hilliard, ADS employs more



than 700 workers and is the world's largest producer of corrugated high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipes used for drainage and sewage systems. Though ADS has an existing presence in Mexico, the Mexican government illegally shut out American producers by arbitrarily imposing a technical standard that would bar the use of all HDPE pipes. In response, Sen. Brown called on the U.S. Trade Representative to utilize the newly created Interagency Trade Enforcement Center and stand up for ADS. Using technical regulations and standards to restrict trade is illegal under the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Sen. Brown's letter asked Ambassador Ron Kirk to work with the Mexican government to comply with its legal obligations with WTO and NAFTA.

### **Ensuring a Level Playing Field for Ohio Manufacturers**

The manufacturing industry in Central Ohio and across our state is bouncing back but challenges remain—and that is why we cannot turn a blind eye when countries like China cheat trade laws.

In October, Sen. Brown visited a Columbus steel foundry to call on House Speaker John Boehner to schedule a vote on his legislation that punishes China for cheating trade laws. Sen. Brown met with workers and toured Columbus Castings. He was joined by CEO Rick Ruebusch, who discussed how his company—a manufacturer of undercarriage components for rail cars and a variety of heavy-duty industrial components—is facing the prospect of Chinese companies selling unfairly underpriced, low-grade products in the U.S. Columbus Castings is the largest single-site steel foundry in North America, and has been a fixture on the Ohio manufacturing landscape for 110 years.



Sen. Brown's bill has broad bipartisan support in the House and Senate and would punish China when it cheats, but has languished in the House for almost a year. Ohio workers and businesses can compete with anyone when we ensure a level playing field—including addressing China's currency manipulation— but Ohio businesses cannot wait any longer for action.

## **Helping Central Ohio Small Businesses Grow and Add Jobs**

### **Assisting Small Businesses Affected by NHL Lockout**

The Columbus Blue Jackets bring hockey fans from Ohio and around the nation to Columbus's Arena District. Restaurants, shops, and hotels in Columbus rely on the revenue brought in from Blue Jackets games to stay in business and keep Ohio workers employed. Without these games, many businesses are scrambling to make ends meet. With the ongoing National Hockey League (NHL) lockout and cancelled All-Star game costing Columbus businesses millions of dollars in lost revenue, Sen. Brown called on the Small Business Administration (SBA) to host workshops in Central Ohio and offer assistance to businesses that have lost revenue because of the shortened hockey season. Sen. Brown is also working to ensure that the NHL commits to Columbus as the 2015 All-Star game host.

### **Increasing Opportunities for Businesses and Workers in Licking County**

The Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority has a strong record of expanding businesses to create jobs. In December, Sen. Brown authored an amendment as part of the National Defense Authorization Act that would expand economic development and create jobs in Licking County by allowing the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority to reestablish its designation as a Small Business Administration (SBA) HUBZone through 2015. This designation gives small businesses in the area—or those that employ residents of the area—preferential access to federal procurement opportunities in order to encourage economic development and jobs creation in the region. Sen. Brown’s amendment was included in the final National Defense Authorization Act signed by the president in December.

## **Building Central Ohio Infrastructure and Transportation**

### **Meeting with Local Businesses to Urge Passage of the Highway Bill**

Investment in road construction projects like the I-71/670 interchange in Columbus put Ohioans back to work, while promoting economic growth. With critical funds to complete the I-71/670 interchange at risk of lapsing, quick action was needed. More than 300 Ohio jobs were at risk if funds were not renewed by congress to complete this project. Additionally, unless the bill was reauthorized other critical roadwork projects would halt and Ohio stood to lose an estimated \$1.39 billion, jeopardizing more than 50,050 Ohio jobs.



In March, Sen. Brown met with workers on the interchange project and local business owners at the 2011 “Best New Restaurant” Yellow Brick Pizza in the Old Towne East neighborhood of Columbus. Sen. Brown stood with local businesses who expressed fear that delayed construction would hurt revenue. Sen. Brown urged passage of the bill and called on the house to reverse dangerous cuts to highway funding in its version.

### **Improving Rickenbacker Intermodal Facility and Expanding Market Access**

The Rickenbacker Intermodal Facility is a critical logistics center for Columbus and an integral piece of the Heartland Corridor that links the Midwest to deep-water ports in Norfolk, Virginia. In June, new federal resources were announced to expand the Rickenbacker Intermodal Facility, creating jobs and opening Central Ohio companies to new markets. The grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation will complete the East-West connector, improving roadways around the intermodal facility and linking the facility to US Route 23, Interstate 270, and Interstate 71. The East-West Connector serves as an important gateway for Ohio businesses to send and sell their goods domestically and internationally. This public-private partnership will allow Ohio businesses to increase productivity, create jobs, and boost Ohio’s economy. Greater Columbus is already a leader in logistics and this investment of federal resources will continue to help bring jobs to Ohio.

### **Unveiling a New Security Gate at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base**

Sen. Brown helped to unveil a new security gate at Rickenbacker Air National Guard base in October. Sen. Brown secured the \$1.6 million for the new gate through the appropriations process in Fiscal Year 2009, with the total project costing \$1.95 million. The new gate encompasses 300 square feet situated on 3 acres. The facility took 10 months to complete and provides the 121<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing Security Forces a modernized gate, improving security not only for the Ohio Army and Air National Guard units stationed at Rickenbacker, but for the other tenants who previously were within separate security perimeters, including the Marine Corps, Navy, and Army Reserve



### **Upgrading Airport Infrastructure**

Ohio's county and regional airports provide important travel services to local small businesses, pilots, and visitors. In July, Sen. Brown announced that resources had been awarded through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration to the Morrow County and Knox County airports. The funds for the Morrow County airport will be used to improve the airport's apron. The Knox County airport plans to rehabilitate its runway and install a wildlife perimeter fence. The funding will improve the safety and efficiency of the airports so they can remain reliable options for the region.

## **Supporting Servicemembers, Veterans, and Law Enforcement**

### **Connecting Ohio Veterans with New Employment Opportunities**

Ohio is home to more than 890,000 veterans, the sixth-largest population of veterans in the U.S. Despite their service, too many veterans struggle to find work when their military service ends. As a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Sen. Brown is committed to ensuring veterans have the tools they need to find employment.

Sen. Brown was an original cosponsor of the *VOW to Hire Heroes Act*, a veterans jobs law enacted in November that created the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). VRAP is a joint U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and U.S. Department of Labor training initiative that provides unemployed veterans between the ages of 35 and 60 the opportunity to pursue training for new careers in high-demand occupations.

In May, Sen. Brown met with Clark County native and U.S. Marine Sgt. Matthew Demers in Washington to discuss efforts to put veterans back to work. Beginning in July, Sen. Brown traveled across Ohio to encourage eligible Ohio veterans to apply for VRAP. In Youngstown, Cleveland, Dayton, Toledo, and Columbus, Sen. Brown joined veterans who will train for new careers at Ohio schools to encourage more Ohio veterans to apply for VRAP assistance. In September, he was joined in Columbus by Don Grove, an unemployed veteran from Delaware County who served in the Navy for 15 years. Using VRAP funds, Mr. Grove is attending

Columbus State Community College to take courses in Health Information Management Technology.

### **Welcoming Home Ohio's Heroes**

Ohio's servicemembers play an integral role in keeping our country safe and responding to state and national emergencies. A representative from Sen. Brown's office attended the "Hometown Hero's Salute" ceremony at the Springfield Air National Guard Base (ANGB) in December. Our servicemembers, who put their lives on the line for their nation, have earned our respect and deep gratitude. Sen. Brown will continue working to ensure that these brave men and women also receive the benefits and care they have so richly earned.

### **Morrow County Detective Awarded Congressional Badge of Bravery**

Every day, we ask our law enforcement officials to put their lives on the line to fight fires and address robberies—to patrol dangerous neighborhoods and investigate violent crimes. While we may never guarantee their safety, in honoring their service we give gratitude for their sacrifice. In January, Sen. Brown joined with Rep. Jim Jordan to award the Congressional Badge of Bravery for heroism to Morrow County Detective Brandon Moore, who was wounded in the line of duty in October 2010.

Detective Moore, a nine-year veteran of the Sheriff's office, was struck five times by open fire in an incident that occurred south of Mount Gilead. Despite his immediate injuries, Detective Moore disabled his assailant, which saved lives and led to three arrests and seizure of marijuana and firearms. The Congressional Badge of Bravery is an annual award given to public safety officers who display bravery in the line of duty. Created under the Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Act of 2008, the award honors the exceptional acts of bravery that law enforcement officers engage in while in the line of duty.

### **Bolstering Firefighter Safety to Improve Firefighter Preparedness and Response**

Firefighters put their lives on the line each day to keep our communities safe. With so many communities already facing budget shortfalls, critical federal efforts, like the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program, are pivotal in keeping Ohio's cities, towns, and communities safe. Sen. Brown announced new resources to bolster firefighter safety in the City of Marion, the Northeast Champaign County Fire District in North Lewisburg, and the Galion Fire Department. The funds will go towards improving operations and safety in the fire departments.

## **Protecting and Supporting Central Ohio Consumers**

### **Protecting Pets from Tainted Products**

Following an increase in tainted pet treats from China leading to animal death and illnesses, Sen. Brown outlined why the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) must take quick action to protect consumers and pet owners at the Capital Area Humane Society in Hilliard. He was joined by Holly McCutcheon, whose four year-old dog Jack developed a rash and fell ill after eating chicken jerky pet treats. McCutcheon contacted Sen. Brown after she saw an FDA warning connecting the dog's illness with tainted chicken jerky pet treats imported from China.



At a Senate Appropriations hearing in April, Sen. Brown urged the head of the FDA, Dr. Margaret Hamburg, to take additional measures to protect American consumers from tainted products. Sen. Brown has sent letters to the FDA urging the agency to promptly pursue efforts to find the contaminant in these pet treats and ensure that they are pulled from store shelves and to explain its current procedures for notifying consumers and retailers of pet food safety breaches. The FDA must be as aggressive as possible to find the source of this contamination, which has already led to illness and death among an untold number of pets in Ohio and across our country.

## **Supporting Social Security, Medicare, and Healthcare**

### **Protecting Medicare and Social Security**

In December, Sen. Brown joined a group of Central Ohio seniors to stand against threats to cut Medicare and Social Security during the fiscal cliff budget negotiations. In Columbus, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare presented Sen. Brown with a petition signed by thousands of Ohio seniors asking leaders in Congress to keep Social Security and Medicare out of the deficit debate. Regina Duffey, a Reynoldsburg-native, discussed how changes to Medicare and Social Security will stretch her already-thin household budget.

### **Working with Ohio State to Ensure Ohioans Have Access to Medication They Need**

When a drug is in short supply, doctors and other healthcare providers are often forced to make tough decisions about how to best treat multiple patients—all in need of a single, hard-to-find drug.



In January, Sen. Brown joined a central Ohio breast cancer patient, doctors, and pharmacists to outline a bill to address drug shortages at the Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center's James Cancer Hospital. Sen. Brown called on the senate to pass the *Preserving Life-Saving Medications Act*, legislation he cosponsored which would alert of incidents that would likely result in a drug shortage. Sen. Brown convened a roundtable discussion with CEOs, Directors of Pharmacy, and other hospital staffers who confront this problem from around

Ohio to discuss possible solutions to improve patient outcomes. In May, Sen. Brown met with doctors at the OSU Cancer Center to announce that the legislation passed the senate allowing hospital systems to tackle drug shortages, treat more patients, and save more lives.

### **Promoting Healthcare with the Expansion of OSU's Wexner Medical Center**

The expansion of Ohio State's Wexner Medical Center is advancing OSU's legacy of medical innovation while creating thousands of jobs in Central Ohio. In February, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and, Ohio State University President Gordon Gee



joined Sen. Brown to provide a progress report on the construction project at the OSU Wexner Medical Center that could become a national model in health workforce development and medical innovation. They were also joined by a formerly unemployed worker who was hired to work on the expansion. The project has put more than 5,000 Ohioans to work and is expected to create 10,000 full-time jobs by 2014. In May, Sen. Brown marked the milestone as the final beam was placed on the new center. These innovations will ensure that Ohio, and the U.S. remain at the forefront of higher education and biomedical research. In December 2010, Sen. Brown helped to secure funding for the project through a competitive grant program created by the health reform law.

## **Strengthening Central Ohio Neighborhoods**

### **Bolstering the Housing Market with New Strategies**



To help recover from the housing crisis, Sen. Brown is working to speed up the home-buying process and make it easier for qualified candidates to purchase homes. In April, Sen. Brown visited Columbus to unveil a new plan to address the lengthy closing process that often comes with short sales. Short sales are real estate transactions that require bank approval because a seller owes more than the proposed sale price. Sen. Brown's bill would require banks to respond in a timely manner when such offers are made.

In Columbus, Sen. Brown was joined by a homeowner whose home has been on the market for nearly two years. Because of the long wait for bank approval, two offers failed. Sen. Brown's legislation, the *Prompt Notification of Short Sale Act*, would improve the process by requiring banks to respond in a timely manner during house sales.

This eliminates the waiting associated with short sales and will hopefully help bolster the housing market and economic recovery. In April, the Federal Housing Finance Agency announced that it will require mortgage servicers to review and respond to short sale requests within 30 days of an offer on the property and make a final decision within 60 days of receiving the offer.

### **Developing Licking County Brownfield Site to Protect Health and the Environment**

Ohio's brownfield sites can be opportunities for redevelopment and new growth. In May, Sen. Brown announced that a Licking County community will receive new resources to rehabilitate contaminated land, create jobs, and protect Ohioans' health. The City of Newark was awarded funding to clean up Ohio brownfields by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Assessment, Cleanup, and Revolving Loan Fund Grants. Cleanup grants will fund rehabilitation activities at brownfield sites that have been contaminated by petroleum and hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. According to the EPA, recipients of assessment grants can use the funds to inventory, characterize, assess, conduct planning and community involvement related to brownfield sites.

## **Marking the Bicentennial of Ohio's Capital City**

In 2012, the City of Columbus commenced a year-long bicentennial celebration with the theme 'Honor the Past. Celebrate the Present. Envision the Future.' In February, Sen. Brown joined with Sen. Portman to introduce a resolution marking the 200th anniversary of the founding of the City of Columbus. This resolution honoring Ohio's capital city was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate. It celebrates Columbus' rich history, as well as the city's economic, cultural, educational, and artistic contributions from the past 200 years.

## **Supporting Central Ohio's Agricultural and Rural Economy**

### **Calling for a Bipartisan, Five-year Farm Bill**



In August, Sen. Brown visited the Ohio State Fair with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack. Sen. Brown and Sec. Vilsack attended the Ohio Agriculture Hall of Fame breakfast, viewed the Junior Beef Marketing show, and visited the Agriculture and Horticulture building. At the fair, Sen. Brown also renewed his call for a five-year farm bill that provides critical assistance to farmers. Sen. Brown also met with farmers and agricultural producers in London, Ohio to tour the Ohio State

University's Farm Science Review in September.

### **Increasing Accessibility to Locally-Grown Foods**

Helping farmers sell their products directly to consumers can create jobs and increase the availability of nutritious, locally-grown foods to all Ohioans. Sen. Brown's office held a forum entitled "Ohio Grown: Local Food Creating Local Opportunities." The forum brought together USDA and OSU Extension at The Ohio State University in Columbus to address Ohio's burgeoning local food movement and efforts to shape food policy to benefit local economies. Sen. Brown invited USDA Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Kathleen Merrigan to deliver the keynote address, which focused on increasing access to locally-grown and healthy food. In addition, Oran Hesterman, president and CEO of Fair Food Network, discussed his efforts to promote better food systems that assure equal access to healthy, affordable foods for all income levels.

### **Expanding Resources for Logan County Farmers**

Ohio's farmers markets bring new customers to farmers and agricultural producers while increasing access to healthy foods. In September, Sen. Brown announced new federal resources that will help farmers expand markets and increase access to fresh, healthy, locally-grown foods in Logan County. The Logan County Farmers Market will receive a grant to expand and improve the market in Zanesfield. The grant is funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Market Promotion Program and will allow the Logan County Farmers Market to include more vendors and gain more customers while maintaining the high-quality produce residents rely on.

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# Northeast Ohio Regional Highlights

## Creating Jobs and Promoting Economic Development

### **Celebrating New Jobs and Investment at Brooklyn's Hugo Boss Plant**

Sen. Brown has worked with Hugo Boss and its workers for several years to preserve the company's Cleveland-area jobs. In March, following a private meeting with Hugo Boss workers and executives, Sen. Brown announced that the company and its employees have ratified a new, three-year labor contract that will preserve the company's more than 150 manufacturing jobs in the Cleveland area.

The agreement also provides for a new "Made to Order" clothing production for North America this fall. If successful, this new production work could bring additional jobs to the Brooklyn facility. The new, three-year labor contract coincides with Hugo Boss's investment in the new Boss Black collection "Made to Order" program, which will allow customers to design their own suiting and shirting, as well as ties and pocket squares in select Hugo Boss store locations within the U.S. market. All "Made to Order" pieces will be manufactured in the Cleveland-area facility.

Less than three years ago, the Cleveland facility teetered on the brink of closure. Hugo Boss and Workers United agreed to a new contract that has resulted in a renewed life for the facility. According to Hugo Boss, since 2010, the Cleveland facility has achieved efficiency and quality ratings that are unparalleled in the industry. Sen. Brown worked closely with Workers United and Hugo Boss to keep the plant open. In July 2010, Sen. Brown joined Hugo Boss workers to celebrate the 'first suit off the line' at the Brooklyn plant, which is the only U.S. suit manufacturing facility of the German company.



### **First-of-Its-Kind Manufacturing Institute Announced in Youngstown**

Youngstown and other cities across Northeast Ohio's Tech Belt make up a critical part of Ohio's manufacturing backbone. In August, Sen. Brown joined senior White House and Administration officials to announce a \$30 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to establish a new, first-of-its-kind manufacturing institute in Youngstown known as the National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute (NAMII).

Additive manufacturing technology is a type of 3-D printing where a digital model can be used to make parts and components. The Youngstown-based Institute will be the first pilot of the National Network for Manufacturing Institutes and will solidify Northeast Ohio as a hub for manufacturing innovation and spur economic development.

### **Bringing Offshore Wind Energy to Lake Erie**

Offshore wind has the potential to bring thousands of new jobs to Ohio and the U.S. — and Lake Erie, with its shallow depth and excellent wind resources, is an ideal site to test offshore wind development.

In December, Sen. Brown secured critical Department of Energy (DOE) resources to advance offshore wind development in Lake Erie. The Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation (LEEDCo) will use the \$4 million award to establish an offshore wind demonstration project on Lake Erie, the first project of its kind in the U.S.

These funds mean that LEEDCo is one step closer to making Lake Erie home to the first freshwater, offshore wind development in North America. LEEDCo plans to install nine 3-megawatt direct-drive wind turbines on “ice breaker” monopile foundations designed to reduce ice loading. The project will be installed on Lake Erie, seven miles off the coast of Cleveland.

Sen. Brown has been a longtime advocate of offshore wind energy. He led a letter in May, signed by several members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, supporting LEEDCo’s application for the grant program. Sen. Brown also convened high-level meetings between LEEDCo and DOE and urged the Obama Administration to fund the project.

### **Federal New Markets Tax Credits Help Promote Economic Development and Create Jobs**

The New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program, administered by the U.S. Treasury Department, helps attract investment in underserved regions that would otherwise suffer from a lack of financing. In February, Sen. Brown announced that the Summit County Port Authority—now known as the Development Finance Authority of Summit County—was awarded \$20 million through the New Markets Tax Credit program for Fiscal Year 2011. This tax credit will help bring new development to the region. Sen. Brown helped secure the credits by sending a letter to the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund in support of the Summit County Port Authority’s application for the New Markets Tax Credit.

### **Providing Ohioans with Job Opportunities in Shale Development**

Shale development has tremendous potential to bring new economic development and jobs to Ohio. Not only do we have to protect our public safety and health, but we must make sure that these new jobs are going to Ohioans—not out-of-staters. In April, Sen. Brown met with Ohioans at a jobs open house that his office organized with Chesapeake Energy. Held in Canton, the open house attracted more than 1,200 workers. Veterans were encouraged to attend day-long event to learn about and apply for career opportunities in shale development. As a result of Sen. Brown’s efforts, Ohio workers have already been hired and are currently working in shale development careers.

### **Protecting Northeast Ohio Steel Jobs with Strong “Buy America” Requirements**

Whenever possible, American tax dollars should be used to bolster American manufacturing. In March, Sen. Brown joined executives from ArcelorMittal, Cliffs Natural Resources, and the United Steelworkers to provide an update on ArcelorMittal’s hiring of 150 new workers and discuss the need to protect Ohio’s steel jobs with strong “Buy America” requirements. In recent years, the U.S. government has relaxed regulations that now allow the importation of foreign-





made steel for use in armor plate and transit infrastructure. Such a practice hurts American steel producers and puts our defense supply chain and national security at risk. Sen. Brown recently authored legislation to require that military steel be 100 percent made in America.

In July, as a result of Sen. Brown's efforts, the Department of Defense (DoD) announced that it would restore a 35-year rule requiring that steel purchased by the U.S. military be 100 percent domestically produced. The rule, originally overturned in 2009, requires armor plate steel to be both melted and finished in the U.S. Several Ohio companies, including Cleveland's ArcelorMittal and Cliffs Natural Resources and Marion's Nucor, are involved producing Armor plate steel. Sen. Brown applauded the move by DoD, which protects thousands of Ohio jobs.

### **Service Training Opportunities for Older, Unemployed, or Low-Income Ohioans in Akron**

As Ohio's population ages and the costs of living increase, communities need to provide training services for unemployed, low-income, or aging adults who are seeking additional employment to help make ends meet. Programs, like those sponsored by Mature Services Inc., can help connect these individuals with the skills and employment opportunities they need.

In July, Sen. Brown announced that Mature Services Inc., a non-profit organization assisting senior citizens in Akron, will receive \$3,804,007 in new federal resources to provide community service training for older, unemployed, low-income Ohioans for the US Department of Labor's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). SCSEP is a community service and work-based program that provides subsidized, part-time training for low-income adults, 55 or older, who have poor employment prospects.

### **Developing and Commercializing Fuel Cells in North Canton**

By developing and commercializing fuel cells in Ohio, we can create jobs while helping to reduce our reliance on foreign oil and continue to position our state as the Silicon Valley for clean energy manufacturing. In June, Sen. Brown applauded the news that LG invested \$45 million to acquire a 51 percent share in Rolls-Royce Fuel Cell Systems, located in North Canton. The company will now be known as LG Fuel Cell Systems, Inc. According to the companies, LG Fuel Cell Systems Inc. will continue to further the research, development, testing, and commercialization of solid oxide fuel cell technology aimed at megawatt-scale distributed power generation for industrial, commercial, and electric utility markets and applications.

### **Developing Clean Coal Technologies at Babcock & Wilcox in Barberton**

Ohio has a rich history in the production and development of a diversity of energy technologies ranging from coal, oil, and natural gas to solar, wind, and fuel cells. Developing new advanced



energy technologies is something Ohio has done and continues to do well. This type of cutting-edge research and development can help make Ohio the center of 21<sup>st</sup>-century energy and economic development.

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory awarded new federal resources to Babcock & Wilcox in Barberton to develop the next generation of clean coal technologies by reducing the costs of carbon capture when coal is burned. Babcock & Wilcox will develop advanced oxy-combustion technologies for carbon capture that can be applied to new, retrofitted, or repowered coal-based power plants.

### **Creating Jobs by Making Products Using Materials Made from Agricultural Products**

Agriculture remains Ohio's number one industry—and manufacturing is one of the state's most important industries. Partnering these two industries could be a boon for Ohio. In a visit to Cleveland's Sherwin-Williams in March, Sen. Brown and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack highlighted a new jobs initiative that would give federal procurement preference to companies that make bio-based products, which are composed wholly or significantly of biological ingredients. At Sherwin-Williams, which makes paint made with soybean oil, Sen. Brown and Sec. Vilsack outlined how increasing bio-based procurement could mean new manufacturing and agricultural jobs in Ohio. Sen. Brown also discussed his "Grow it Here, Make it Here" initiative, which would increase access to capital for bio-based manufacturers, improve marketing of bio-based products, and further the commercialization of new agricultural innovations. Ohio is already home to nearly 150 companies that use agricultural crops to make new products ranging from natural cleaners to bio-based paint and soy ink and toner.

### **Promoting Tourism and Boosting Economic Development in Northeast Ohio**

Ohio has a strong tourism industry, but there is more to be done to make sure visitors know about all of Ohio's world-class attractions. During a working conference call in July, Sen. Brown discussed strategies for boosting Ohio's tourism industry with representatives from the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, the Football Hall of Fame in Canton, the Cleveland Orchestra, and other Ohio stakeholders. They were also joined by Brand USA, a new public-private entity that seeks to bring more visitors to the United States and to create economic activity and jobs in Ohio and across the nation.

### **Boosting Ohio's Aerospace Exports**

An aggressive American export strategy is key to Ohio's economic recovery. Sen. Brown is one of five Senators serving on the President's Export Council and is working to help more Ohio manufacturers export their products, improving their competitiveness and creating jobs. In September, Sen. Brown joined the Ohio Aerospace Institute (OAI) in Cleveland to announce a first-of-its-kind project funded in part by federal resources and in part by OAI that will help boost Ohio's aerospace



exports by connecting Ohio's aerospace manufacturing companies with international aerospace manufacturers seeking components and services made in the U.S.

OAI will receive nearly \$166,000 from the International Trade Administration's Market Development Cooperator Program (MDCP) and is the first exclusively-aerospace industry recipient of such an award. According to OAI, its MDCP project will increase aerospace exports from Ohio-based small and mid-size qualifying aerospace manufacturers to Canada, Europe, Brazil, and India by an estimated \$90 million over the next three years. OAI anticipates its project will create 720 aerospace manufacturing jobs and more than 1,100 indirect jobs in Ohio and throughout the United States. Ohio-based manufacturing companies will benefit from this partnership by gaining access to training sessions, supplier summits and workshops, and trade missions.

### **Federal Resources for New Entrepreneurs Opportunity Fund in Ashtabula**

The New Entrepreneurs Opportunity Fund, a community development organization in Ashtabula County, is a critical resource for maintaining and growing Ohio's economy. Sen. Brown was pleased to announce in August that the New Entrepreneurs Opportunity Fund was awarded \$92,037 through a competitive grant from the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund. The CDFI Fund, administered by the U.S. Treasury Department, helps rural and low-income communities that lack access to affordable financial products and services. These resources will help build upon Northeast Ohio's existing strengths, while bringing new development to the region.

## **Strengthening Trade Enforcement to Protect Northeast Ohio Jobs**

### **Fighting Chinese Currency Manipulation to Protect Northeast Ohio Jobs**

From steel to auto parts, the evidence is clear that when industry and the government get tough on trade and enforce existing laws, Ohio's workers and businesses win. Ohio's workers and businesses can compete with anyone when trade laws, including addressing China's currency manipulation, are strengthened and enforced.

Sen. Brown visited Wheatland Tube in Warren in October to meet with workers and release a new report outlining the importance of trade law enforcement to steel and manufacturing jobs in the Mahoning Valley and across Northeast Ohio.

Sen. Brown renewed his call to Speaker John Boehner to schedule a vote in the House of Representatives on his Senate-passed, bipartisan *Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act*, which would punish China when it cheats trade laws by manipulating its currency. The legislation, which could create 2 million American jobs at no



cost to taxpayers, cleared the Senate in October 2011 by a wide bipartisan margin, but has stalled in the House since then. Nearly 260 current House members—including 80 Republicans—voted for a similar version of the bill in 2010.

### **Protecting Northeast Ohio Steel Workers from Unfair Chinese Subsidies and Dumping**

Ohio manufacturers can compete with anyone, but they deserve access to a level playing field. China and other foreign competitors have been flooding American markets with cheaply produced goods, which have hurt American manufacturers of steel wheels, tapered roller bearings, and steel pipes.

American manufacturers of tapered roller bearings face cheap imports from China sold at prices below market value. The federal government imposes antidumping duties to level the playing field, but the duties must be reviewed every five years. As the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) conducted this five-year review on antidumping duties on imports of tapered roller bearings, Sen. Brown testified before the ITC in June on behalf of the Timken Company and United Steelworkers, who make tapered roller bearings in Canton. In his testimony, Sen. Brown encouraged the ITC to maintain the antidumping duties to help preserve jobs at Timken. The ITC voted to uphold antidumping duties on imports of tapered roller bearings.

Ohio manufacturers of steel pipes support hundreds of good-paying Ohio jobs that are vulnerable to unfair trade practices carried out by the Chinese, including currency manipulation and duty evasion. In December, Sens. Brown and Portman urged the Commerce Department to maintain antidumping duties and countervailing duties on Chinese steel pipe imports. The pipes are used for domestic oil exploration, particularly in the shale industry, and are produced in Ohio by U.S. Steel in Lorain, V&M STAR in Youngstown, Wheatland Tube in Warren, and JMC Steel in Brookfield.

### **V&M Star VP Testifies on Need for Strong Trade Law Enforcement**

Enforcing trade laws is critical for the growth and success of domestic manufacturing and steel production. To represent Northeast Ohio's concerns about trade issues in Washington, D.C., Sen. Brown nominated Doug Polk, Vice President for Industry Affairs at V&M Star, to join job creators from around the U.S. to testify before the Senate Democratic Steering Committee.

Strong trade law enforcement has been key to V&M Star's success in Ohio. Countries like China have shown that they will stop at nothing to lure away American manufacturing jobs. Without an aggressive approach to addressing unfair subsidies and trade practices carried out by the Chinese government, hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs—like those at V&M Star—could be jeopardized.

The rapidly-developing shale industry in Ohio has significantly increased demand for the rolled steel pipes manufactured by V&M Star. V&M Star has committed nearly \$1 billion in investments to Ohio, in part to be in close proximity to the developing Marcellus and Utica shale regions; the company has also benefited from strong trade enforcement and a \$20 million award from the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* to build a new facility in the Mahoning Valley.

### **More than 1,200 Northeast Ohioans Eligible for Worker Adjustment Assistance**

Ohioans who work hard and play by the rules should not be left to struggle when they lose their job through no fault of their own. The federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) provides aid to workers who lose their jobs or whose work hours and wages are reduced as a result of increased imports. The program extends benefits such as training for employment in another job or career, income support, job search allowances, and relocation allowances. Qualified workers may quickly return to employment through a combination of these services.

Over the past year, Sen. Brown has announced TAA eligibility to 125 workers at Diebold Incorporated in North Canton; approximately 25 workers at The Taylor Chair Company in Bedford; more than 1,000 workers at RG Steel, which had Ohio operations in Yorkville, Mingo Junction, Martin's Ferry, and Warren; approximately 100 workers at Newell Rubbermaid in Wooster; and 36 workers at General Electric Ohio Lamp in Warren. These resources will help ensure that these displaced workers have the financial support and training opportunities to get a fresh start.

### **Making Clothing in America**

After the news that the U.S. Olympic team uniforms, designed by American designer Ralph Lauren, were actually made in China, Sen. Brown introduced a new "Buy America" plan through the *Wear American Act of 2012*. The bill would require that all textile and apparel articles acquired for use by federal agencies be manufactured from articles, materials, or supplies entirely grown, produced, or manufactured in the United States. Sen. Brown believes that whenever possible, American tax dollars should be used to bolster American manufacturing, including textile and apparel manufacturing.

During a visit to Youngstown Nation, a store that specializes in American- and Ohio-made products, Sen. Brown discussed his legislation alongside proprietor Phil Kidd and Bob Hodge of Hodge Embroidery and Screenprinting, who discussed his experiences as Ohio small business owner competing in the apparel industry.

## **Helping Northeast Ohio Small Businesses Grow and Add Jobs**

### **Celebrating a Record Year of Lending in Ohio by the Small Business Administration**



Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and access to capital is vital for them. In January, Sen. Brown and Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Karen Mills visited Constantino's Market in Cleveland to celebrate the company's expansion and highlight the record year of SBA lending in Ohio. Constantino's Market used SBA financing to expand one store and open a new store in Cleveland. The expansion and opening are expected to support more than 30 jobs and create more than 50 jobs at the two locations.



In Fiscal Year 2011, the SBA approved 3,228 loans amounting to nearly \$760 million for Ohio small businesses. In Fiscal Years 2009-2011, the Northern District of the SBA saw more than a 65 percent increase in the volume of SBA loans to area small businesses.

To aid these efforts, Sen. Brown was instrumental in passing the *Small Business Jobs and Credit Act*, which expanded the SBA provisions in the Recovery Act that helped small business owners access more private capital. Sen. Brown also fought for increased loan limits in the SBA's most popular loan programs. Endorsed by the Chamber of Commerce and National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB), the *Small Business Jobs and Credit Act* also provided \$55 million to the Ohio Department of Development under the State Small Business Credit Initiative.

Since 2009, Sen. Brown's office has conducted more than 30 small business workshops throughout Ohio. These workshops provided Ohio small businesses with important information on SBA loan programs, resources to help increase export sales, tax incentives to help invest and hire workers, and federal procurement resources.

### **Growing and Incubating New Small Businesses Across Northeast Ohio**

Business incubators help to reduce the risks entrepreneurs face, provide critical resources for young companies in need, and help create jobs in Ohio. In March, Sen. Brown celebrated a new partnership between the Youngstown Business Incubators and TECHudson designed to bolster small business development. The signing of this unprecedented agreement will help bolster Ohio's role as a national leader in the successful development and launch of new small businesses.

Additionally, in April, Sen. Brown visited Ferrante Winery in Geneva to discuss a proposed business incubator that would create jobs and provide support to start-up wineries in Northeast Ohio, as well as boost culinary tourism in and around Ashtabula County. "Pairings Ohio" hopes to break ground by 2013 but has been tied to donations and fundraisers in order to do so. Business incubators can provide office space, training, advice, and other resources to fledgling business enterprises, which would help Pairings move toward their goals faster.



Sen. Brown's *Business Incubator Promotion Act* would make more communities in Ohio eligible to receive funds that support business incubators through the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). Incubator support has already created hundreds of thousands of jobs by providing start-up companies with services that help turn innovative ideas into viable businesses.

### **Fostering High-Tech Small Business Innovation**

With the help of the U.S. Department of Energy's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant program, innovators and entrepreneurs at companies across Ohio are helping to develop



clean energy technology, create life-saving medical devices, and take other technological strides that will change and improve American lives. In June, Sen. Brown announced that Euclid Techlabs, LLC in Solon will receive nearly \$4 million through the SBIR program.

SBIR is a competitive program that encourages American-owned and independently operated small businesses to reach their technological potential by awarding them crucial funds to aid in a technology's startup and development stages. Together with the Small Business Technical Transfer (STTR) program, the SBIR program has delivered more than \$233 million to more than 240 Ohio small businesses to develop innovative technologies and grow and create jobs over the past three decades.

### **Helping Mahoning Valley Small Businesses Increase Exports**

As a member of President Obama's Export Council, Sen. Brown is committed to helping Ohio businesses access new markets. Sen. Brown's office has held multiple seminars throughout the state to help connect Ohio businesses with federal resources to increase their export sales. In June, Sen. Brown attended the first-of-its-kind "TechBelt Export Summit." Sen. Brown's office helped organize the event with the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber of Commerce. Fred Hochberg, Chairman of the Export-Import Bank, and Francisco Sanchez, Undersecretary of Commerce for International Trade, also participated in the event to highlight federal resources to help businesses in the Mahoning Valley access new markets.



In 2009 and 2010, businesses in the Youngstown metropolitan area led the nation in export growth. This spring, Sen. Brown led the charge in the Senate to reauthorize the Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank. More than 140 Ohio businesses have received financing through the Export-Import Bank, since 2009, at no cost to U.S. taxpayers. In May, the Senate approved the reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank President Obama later signed the bill into law.

### **Medina Small Business Owner Victoria Tifft is National Small Business Person of the Year**

Sen. Brown celebrated the news that Hinckley small business owner Victoria Tifft was recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) as the "National Small Business Person of the Year." Victoria's work is worthy of recognition not only because her company ClinicalRM helps develop potentially life-saving treatments for infectious diseases, but because it has served as an exemplary model of small business growth and job creation.

According to the SBA, Victoria learned about the devastating living conditions endured by people living in Third World nations when she contracted malaria while serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in the West African nation of Togo. After her recovery, she returned home to the U.S. determined to spend her life working to provide medical solutions for the global community. In 1992, Victoria established ClinicalRM, a Contract Research Organization (CRO) that supports development of FDA-regulated vaccines, pharmaceuticals, and medical devices for

government and commercial customers. ClinicalRM helped create—and today manages—the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research’s Clinical Trials Center. The Center develops vaccines for infectious diseases such as malaria, and E. coli. Employing three people in 1994, the company maintains domestic and international operations today with a staff of 331. Annual revenues have increased from \$17 million in 2007 to \$40 million in 2010.

## **Building Northeast Ohio’s Infrastructure and Transportation**

### **New Federal Resources for Northeast Ohio’s Regional Airports**

Northeast Ohio is home to several outstanding regional airports. In 2012, Sen. Brown announced more than \$7 million in federal resources from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for Ohio airports, including the Medina Municipal Airport, Akron-Canton Regional Airport, Galion Municipal Airport, Geauga County Airport, Lorain County Regional Airport, Kent State University Airport, and the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport. All funds will go to rehabilitating and maintaining airport infrastructure including runways, apron pavement, and taxiways.

### **Investing in Northeast Ohio’s Public Transportation**

Public transportation is critical for economic revitalization and job creation. Thanks to federal investments, a new Cedar-University Rapid Transit Authority (RTA) is being built in Cleveland. Sen. Brown applauded the project, which will be able to serve more Ohioans and increase the value of the University Circle area for small business owners, young people, and homeowners. The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Administration provided \$14.2 million in federal funds, including a \$10.5 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant, to support the project. Upgrades include reconstruction, relocation, and modernization of the rail station, bus terminal, and associated roadways.

In addition, Sen. Brown announced that the Summit County Metro Regional Transit Authority (MRTA) will receive \$270,000 in new federal resources to expand and improve public transportation options. This grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation will expand transportation choices, improve transit connections, and provide job access between Merriman Valley, downtown Akron, and south Akron.

### **Giving Northeast Ohioans Better Access to Passenger Rail Service**

Relocating Amtrak service in Elyria would help continue downtown Elyria’s revitalization, create a one-stop center for transit opportunities, and help to fully utilize the newly-renovated Lorain County Transit Center. In December, Sen. Brown urged Amtrak and the Norfolk Southern Corporation, the owner of the railroad tracks in Lorain County, to relocate Amtrak service from its existing location in Elyria to the newly-renovated Lorain County Transit Center (LCTC). In letters sent to the companies, Sen. Brown urged Amtrak to use existing funds—currently slated to make the current Elyria stop compliant with the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA)—to move Amtrak service to the LCTC, which is already ADA compliant. While the existing Amtrak Elyria stop has limited space and few amenities, the LCTC was recently renovated and also offers Greyhound bus and Lorain County Transit Authority bus services.

## **Supporting Servicemembers, Veterans, and Law Enforcement**

### **Protecting the Officers Who Protect Us: Creating a National “Blue Alert” System**

Violence against our law enforcement officers is, unfortunately, an all-too-common occurrence. Every year across America, dozens of law enforcement officers are killed in the line of duty, with thousands more injured or assaulted while on the job. In January, Sen. Brown joined Mahoning Valley law enforcement leaders to outline legislation that would create a national “Blue Alert” system aimed at apprehending criminals who injure or kill law enforcement officers serving in the line of duty. A national Blue Alert system would help track down those who assault law enforcement officers—even if they attempt to flee to a neighboring state. In a state like Ohio, that borders five other states, a national Blue Alert system could mean the difference between capturing an assailant and having him escape. Sen. Brown first announced his support for the *National Blue Act of 2011* during Police Week in May 2011.

### **Ensuring Northeast Ohio Firefighters Are Prepared and Safe**

Our first responders put their lives on the line every day across Ohio. Federal resources ensure that firefighters across Northeast Ohio have the resources they need to perform their jobs safely. Sen. Brown announced in February that nearly \$1.9 million was awarded to fire departments in Ashtabula, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Richland, Stark, Trumbull, and Tuscarawas Counties for operations and safety and for vehicle acquisition by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program. AFG awards grants to departments and EMS organizations that are not directly affiliated with a hospital in an effort to enhance their ability to protect the health and safety of the public.

Additionally, FEMA’s Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program helps fire departments to increase the number of trained firefighters available in their communities. The Wadsworth, Cuyahoga Falls, Willoughby, Mansfield, North Olmsted, Akron, Bazetta, Austintown, Jefferson, Massillon, Bedford, Wooster Township, and Akron Fire Departments as well as the Eastern Knox County Joint Fire District all received SAFER grants in 2012 to hire firefighters, purchase or update equipment, or improve firefighter preparedness, safety, and response.

### **Preserving Mansfield's Air National Guard and Youngstown’s Air Reserve**

Sen. Brown has led the efforts to save Mansfield's 179th Airlift Wing C-27J aircraft program from being eliminated at the Mansfield Air National Guard Base (ANGB) and to preserve the current number of C-130 planes and personnel at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station (YARS).

In December, Sen. Brown announced a “strategic pause” that halted the proposed changes to the C-27J program at the Mansfield ANGB and to the C-130 planes and personnel at YARS. Despite



these efforts, the Air Force will have great leeway in determining the posture and position of air craft at the Mansfield ANGB and YARS. Sen. Brown will continue to advocate for the bases and the men and women in Ohio's Air Guard and Air Force reserves.



When the U.S. Department of Defense announced that it would retire the C-27J aircraft program, Sen. Brown voiced his opposition to the elimination and called for a follow-on mission for the Mansfield base. Sen. Brown has consistently stood against proposals to eliminate the C-27J program, which would affect hundreds of National Guard positions in Mansfield. In March, he visited Mansfield to stand with the Ohio Air National Guard and the greater

Mansfield community in opposition to the proposed elimination of the C-27J program. He also wrote to Secretary of Defense Panetta and met with Air Force Secretary Donnelly, urging them to reconsider their decision to eliminate the Guard planes. The “strategic pause” in the budget deal passed by Congress in September will preserve the C-27J flying mission at the Mansfield ANGB for at least six months.

The men and women of the 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at YARS carry out a unique mission by serving as the sole fixed-wing aerial spray unit in the Department of Defense. Throughout the appropriations process, Sen. Brown proudly voted to keep intact the 12 planes and corresponding personnel at YARS. The “strategic pause” Fiscal Year 2013 Defense Authorization (NDAA) bill passed by Congress in December will preserve the current number of C-130 planes and personnel at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station for at least six months. Sen. Brown will continue to fight to ensure that the men and women at the Mansfield ANGB and YARS and their vital missions, are protected in the months and years to come.

### **Connecting Ohio Veterans with New Employment Opportunities**

Ohio is home to more than 890,000 veterans, making our state the nation's sixth-largest population of veterans. Despite their service, too many veterans struggle to find work when their military service ends. As a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Sen. Brown is committed to ensuring veterans have the tools they need to find employment.

Sen. Brown was an original cosponsor of the *VOW to Hire Heroes Act*, a veterans jobs law enacted in November that created the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). VRAP is a joint Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Labor training initiative that provides unemployed veterans between the ages of 35 and 60 the opportunity to pursue training for new careers in high demand occupations. VRAP offers up to 12 months of training assistance to unemployed veterans. Between July 1, 2012, and March 31, 2014, VRAP will provide up to 99,000 participants with retraining assistance.



Beginning in July, Sen. Brown traveled across Ohio to encourage eligible Ohio veterans to apply for VRAP. In Youngstown and Cleveland, Sen. Brown joined veterans who will train for new careers at Ohio schools to encourage more Ohio veterans to apply for VRAP assistance.

### **Helping Veterans Apply Their Military Skills to the Civilian Job Market**



Service members acquire skills in the military that can translate easily to the civilian workforce. Sen. Brown is fighting to help veterans cut through red tape and roadblocks when they try to apply their military skills and training to the civilian job market. In a visit to the Port of Cleveland in October, Sen. Brown—joined by a veteran from a Cleveland trucking company—outlined a new law that eliminates a critical hurdle for active duty military, military reserves, or National Guard service members seeking a commercial driver’s license (CDL).

Since many military personnel are stationed away from their home state of record, current law makes it difficult for them to apply for the license, even though they may have the adequate training to qualify for the license. The *Military CDL Act*, which Sen. Brown sponsored, eliminates an existing law that only allows service members to obtain a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) in their home state of record.

### **Improving Education for Veterans on GI Bill Benefits**

Thanks to the Post-9/11 GI Bill, military servicemembers and veterans are able to take advantage of tuition assistance benefits—but many for-profit colleges are attempting to take advantage of men and women in uniform by flooding them with deceptive and aggressive marketing and recruitment pitches. In April, Sen. Brown joined Brad Sonenstein, a U.S. Air Force veteran from Mayfield Heights, to outline the *GI Bill Consumer Awareness Act of 2012*, which would help veterans make informed decisions about their educational future and crack down on misleading solicitation campaigns carried out by these schools. The bill would provide veterans with more and better information about their benefits, would require all institutions of higher education to disclose critical information about the average student loan debt and job placement data, and would crack down on misleading recruitment tactics.

### **Fighting Veteran Homelessness**

Too many of our service men and women return home without homes to go to. Ohio has a large population of veterans, which makes it crucial to ensure that resources, such as shelters, are available to veterans in need. Providing resources to veterans who have put their lives on the line will ensure that they receive the support they need to live in a stable environment and find work once they return home.



Sen. Brown announced new federal resources to provide critical support for homeless veterans in Northeast Ohio. The Family and Community Services, Inc. of Portage County received resources to provide temporary housing for homeless veterans and provide a daily average of 20 beds for homeless veterans through a “Transition in Place” housing model which promotes increased housing stabilization. Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons, Inc. in Cuyahoga County received resources to provide supportive services to low-income veteran families living in or transitioning to permanent housing. The organization plans to serve approximately 400 participant households in Cuyahoga County.

In March, Sen. Brown met with Chanel Curry, a formerly homeless and current U.S. Army Reservist now living in Cleveland, who also testified before the Veterans Affairs Committee regarding veterans’ homelessness. The hearing was titled “Ending Homelessness Among Veterans: VA’s Progress on its 5 Year Plan.”

### **Presenting Medals to Northeast Ohio Veterans**

The men and women that serve our country in uniform deserve our gratitude. As a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Sen. Brown fights every day to ensure that Ohio’s veterans receive their hard-earned benefits and recognition.

In February, coinciding with the first day of service at the new Parma VA Outpatient Clinic, Sen. Brown presented 18 overdue and replacement medals to three Northeast Ohio veterans and their family members. Medals awarded included one Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and two Purple Hearts.

In July, Sen. Brown presented U.S. Army Private First Class Donald Arnold, a Cleveland-area World War II veteran, with an overdue Purple Heart and eight other replacement medals. In August, prior to an Akron Aeros game at Canal Park, representatives from Sen. Brown’s office presented overdue or replacement medals to 13 Medina, Summit, Wayne, Lake, and Trumbull County veterans or their family members for distinctions earned during World War II, the Vietnam War, and for service in the Persian Gulf, Bosnia, and Afghanistan.

In August, as Cleveland’s Navy Week kicked off, Sen. Brown presented an Operation Iraqi Freedom Navy veteran and a World War II Navy veteran several medals earned in combat. Sen. Brown worked with the National Personnel Records Center and the United States Navy Personnel Command to obtain the medals, and he presented the medals to Hospital Corpsman Third Class (HM3) Michael Dobec and Motor Machinist’s Mate First Class (MOMM1c) James Burton Tedrick in a ceremony aboard the USS COD.





In December, Sen. Brown presented 13 medals—including a Bronze Star—to Vietnam Veteran and South Euclid resident Larry Patterson. Sgt. Patterson was born in Jackson, Mississippi and raised in Cleveland. He joined the Army in 1967 and spent 19 months in Vietnam as a radar operator. After being stationed in Korea, Sgt. Patterson returned to California and became an Army recruiter. He later was transferred to Cleveland where he worked as a recruiter until he retired from the Army in 1989. He worked at the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Cleveland Regional

Office for twenty years, first as a veterans' service representative and later as a supervisor.

### **Mansfield's New VA Clinic to be Named After Local Vietnam Veteran**

On the day of the groundbreaking of the new Veteran's Administration Community-Based Outpatient Clinic in Mansfield, the U.S. Senate passed legislation introduced by Sens. Brown and Portman to name the facility after Private First Class David F. Winder. Winder, a Mansfield native and graduate of Malabar High School, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 1974 after being mortally wounded while serving as a Medic and attempting to save the lives of his fellow soldiers in the Vietnam War in 1970. The new 25,000 square foot facility that bears his name will replace an existing facility. The outpatient clinic will expand present services to more than 7,000 veterans in the Mansfield area.

### **Improving Transportation Access for Northeast Ohio Veterans**

Whether they need to access services at the local VA or just to get to work, our veterans—like all Ohioans—deserve access to reliable transportation.

In March, Wadsworth resident Carl Harris, a member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America and a Vietnam Veteran, met with Sen. Brown in the nation's capital to discuss efforts to improve transportation options for disabled veterans, veterans' employment and benefits, and other issues. Sen. Brown, a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, helped pass a new law to provide disabled veterans with additional Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefits.

In July, Sen. Brown announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Transit Administration awarded \$50,000 to the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) to improve access to transportation options for veterans in Stark County. These new resources will help veterans, active service members, and military families learn about locally-available transportation services.

## **Supporting NASA Research and Investments**

### **Standing up in Washington for NASA Glenn Research Center and Plum Brook Station**

The backbone of NASA is its employees, and Sen. Brown raised concerns that the proposed budget for NASA underfunds its highly-talented researchers and scientists, thereby threatening

the ambitious agenda NASA has planned. At a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing in March, Sen. Brown questioned NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden over NASA mission and resources decisions that affect Cleveland's NASA Glenn Research Center and its Plum Brook Station in Sandusky. Sen. Brown asked Administrator Bolden how the cuts in NASA's overall budget, including aeronautics, will affect NASA Glenn—a center where aeronautics is a major strength—and about making full use of the facilities at Plum Brook. With NASA seeking the ability to shift funds, Sen. Brown is fighting to ensure that all of NASA's centers are adequately funded and utilized before Congress grants a level of flexibility in how discretionary funds are spent at NASA.

### **NASA Collaborates with Small and Mid-Sized Manufacturers in Cuyahoga County**

Manufacturers are the backbone of Ohio's economy, and connecting them to NASA's technical expertise will help them grow and add jobs. In May, Sen. Brown applauded the news of federal, county, and city investments in nine Cuyahoga County small- and mid-sized manufacturers to do just that. The City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, NASA Glenn Research Center (GRC), and the Manufacturing Advocacy & Growth Network (MAGNET) announced that these manufacturers will receive assistance from NASA subject matter experts, low-interest-rate loans from the city and county, and professional business development assistance from MAGNET to solve technical challenges they face with a new or existing product. The announcement is part of a new initiative, sponsored by the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy, to lend NASA's technical expertise to local businesses.

### **Highlighting NASA-Glenn Accomplishments in Cleveland**

As the official home of the NASA Glenn Visitor Center, the Great Lakes Science Center (GLSC) plays a tremendous role in educating families, students, and tourists to the Cleveland area about the accomplishments of the NASA facility in our own backyard. In June, Sen. Brown announced that new federal funds were awarded to the GLSC to establish a gallery highlighting the work of NASA Glenn's accomplishments in aeronautics and aerospace. In January, Sen. Brown led members of the Ohio delegation on a bipartisan letter to NASA Administrator Charles Bolden requesting the funding for the GLSC.

The funding, which totals \$900,000, is part of 18 projects selected by NASA to receive agency funding in 2012. Sen. Brown was a member of a committee that helped include the funding in the final version of the Fiscal Year 2012 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. According to NASA, proposals were selected through a merit-based, peer-reviewed process from the 63 proposals received.

### **Supporting Northeast Ohio's Bid to Manage the International Space Station**

The contract to manage the International Space Station National Laboratory was awarded in early 2012, but the recipient—Center for Advancement in Science and Space (CASIS)—demonstrated that it is unable to fulfill the type of work necessary to move this important project forward and fulfill NASA's requirements. This spurred Sen. Brown to urge NASA to reconsider the contract award. In light of the resignation of the head of CASIS, which is located at the Kennedy Space Station in Florida, Sen. Brown led members of the Ohio delegation in sending a letter to NASA to encourage the agency to reopen the competition for the contract and to consider the strong application made by Space Laboratory Associates (SLA). SLA is a non-

profit entity established by two of this country's top scientific organizations: the Universities Space Research Association (USRA) and Battelle Memorial Institute.

Previously, Sen. Brown and other members of the Ohio delegation wrote to NASA Administrator Charles Bolden urging him to select Space Laboratory Associates to manage the International Space Station (ISS) National Laboratory. He also wrote to Space Laboratory Associates urging them to locate its proposed headquarters in the Cleveland area. In March 2011, SLA announced that should it win the NASA contract to develop the ISS National Laboratory, northeast Ohio would serve as the project's new home.

## **Protecting and Supporting Northeast Ohio Consumers and The Middle Class**

### **Protecting Ohio Call Center Jobs**



Companies who send call center jobs abroad don't just frustrate their customers, but they also hurt our economy by removing local, good-paying positions. Sen. Brown called attention to the offshoring of call center jobs and the need to keep these jobs here in America and in Ohio by joining call center workers in Cleveland and Niles to outline new legislation he is supporting to help keep call center jobs in the U.S.

The *United States Call Center Worker and Consumer Protection Act of 2012* would require companies to disclose to callers when their calls are transferred abroad, make businesses that move call center jobs overseas ineligible for federal grants or loans, direct the Department of Labor to make a public list of such companies, and require agencies to give preference to US employers that do not appear on this list.

### **Working to Restore Full Pensions of Delphi Retirees**

In 2009, Delphi's bankruptcy cost approximately 19,000 hourly retirees and 20,000 salaried retirees their full pensions after the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) assumed Delphi's pension plans. While three unions representing hourly Delphi retirees had reached contractual agreements with General Motors to ensure full pension protection – negotiated in 1999 and reaffirmed in 2007 – the remaining workers had not. Sen. Brown introduced a bill to help these retirees receive the benefits they have earned through their years of service and hard work. The legislation would restore the full pensions of Delphi retirees and transfer certain proceeds from the sale of government stock of General Motors to a fund at the U.S. Treasury Department that would supplement payment to the Delphi retirees.

Sen. Brown emphasized the employees' innocence in the unfortunate circumstances that befell Delphi, and that the employees' compensation for years of employment and paying into their



pensions are long overdue. The bill needs to be “fast-tracked” to help these families that have been unfairly suffering for too long.

Sen. Brown has been an outspoken advocate on behalf of the retirees since the restructuring of General Motors in 2009. Sen. Brown has also been supportive of the efforts of salaried retirees seeking a proposed settlement, and is working to request that the Obama Administration give that proposal consideration. This bill would not interfere with pending litigation regarding the Delphi pensions, and the legislation is one proposal to ensure that Delphi retirees are fairly compensated.

### **Taking Action to Protect Pet Owners and Family Pets from Tainted Pet Treats**

One of Sen. Brown’s most important jobs as Senator is fulfilling constituent services—from helping Ohioans cut red tape to assisting with government resources. After receiving a letter from an Ohio pet owner describing how her dog fell ill after eating chicken jerky treats that were made in China, Sen. Brown called on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to step up its investigation of the importation of pet food—especially from China, where the possibility of food contamination is high. Sen. Brown urged the FDA to promptly pursue efforts to find the contaminant in these pet treats, ensure that they are pulled from store shelves, and explain its current procedures for notifying consumers and retailers of pet food safety breaches.

At a February news conference at the Cleveland Animal Protective League, Brown was joined by Kevin Thaxton, whose 10 year-old pug, Chancey, passed away unexpectedly after eating chicken jerky pet treats. A Brooklyn Heights woman, Terry Safranek, lost her 9-year-old fox terrier, Samson, in late January. Only after seeing a story on the evening news did she realize that her dog’s death was likely due to his consumption of the same tainted chicken jerky treats.

Sen. Brown has been a strong advocate in the Senate for food safety, and was instrumental in passing the *Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Safety Modernization Act of 2010*. In recent years, tainted imports from China and other countries have led to the recall of hundreds of thousands of toys, tires, food products, and pet food products, and Sen. Brown has fought to ensure the safety of these products.



### **Preventing Identity Theft and Scams**

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in our country, where increased access to information for consumers also means increased opportunities for criminals—so it’s no wonder that stealing identities to fraudulently obtain tax returns and refunds is turning into an epidemic. In April, as Ohioans began to file their taxes, Sen. Brown joined Michael Bucalo, of Akron, whose identity was used by a criminal to fraudulently obtain Bucalo’s tax return, to raise awareness of identity theft tied to tax returns and help protect Ohioans. Sen. Brown outlined legislation he is supporting – the *Identity Theft and Tax Fraud Prevention Act* – that would



increase penalties for thieves who file false returns and expedite tax returns to Ohioans who have been hit by identity theft. The bill would also require the IRS, Bureau of Prisons, and the Treasury Department to step up identity theft tax fraud prevention programs.

Also in April, Sen. Brown's office and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) hosted free seminars for seniors in Canton and Girard aimed at helping them protect their finances and avoid fraud and scams. The FTC is charged with helping to prevent fraud, deception, and unfair business practices in the marketplace. Representatives from the Consumer Credit Counseling Service also participated.

### **Cracking Down on Oil Speculation to Help Fight Rising Gas Prices**

Following the release of a report in March showing that excessive Wall Street betting adds a 56-cent premium to every gallon of gasoline, Sen. Brown held a news conference in Independence to renew his call to the Obama Administration to crack down on oil speculation. Sen. Brown was joined by Paul Williams, owner of Wooster Motor Ways, along with Daniel Jarvis, an independent trucker and owner of Daniel Jarvis Transport, to outline how unregulated oil speculation leads to rising gas prices and hurts Ohio small businesses, truckers, and consumers alike. Sen. Brown urged the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to enact overdue regulations to protect consumers and small businesses from artificially-inflated gas prices.

### **Fighting to End the Sports Blackout Rule**

Ohio sports fans should be able to watch their home team play—in the stadium they own—on basic television, regardless of whether the game sells out. In January, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced that it is planning to reconsider the Sports Blackout Rule, a 1970s-era regulation that allows sports leagues like the NFL to black out broadcasts of a local sports game when the game does not sell out. At the urging of Sen. Brown, the FCC released a petition urging the agency to open the Sports Blackout Rule for public feedback, the first step in repealing the regulation. Sen. Brown also encouraged Ohio football fans to contact the FCC and let them know how they feel about this outdated regulation, which is unfair to teams, fans, and taxpayers.

In July, the NFL announced the adoption of a new policy that would allow teams to lift local blackouts if at least 85 percent of seats are filled within 72 hours of kickoff. This overturns a longtime requirement that the stadium be filled to capacity before local television blackouts could be lifted. While the NFL's new policy is an important step in addressing the outdated blackout policy, it also included a punitive portion that requires teams to forgo a significant portion of revenue from tickets sold over the 85 percent threshold. Sen. Brown sent a letter to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell expressing concerns and urging the NFL to drop the punitive portion or provide waivers to give teams the flexibility to air games without being financially penalized.

### **Improving the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad for Northeast Ohio Families**

Cuyahoga Valley National Park is one of the nation's most-visited national parks and receives more than 2.8 million recreational visitors each year. Together, the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and its scenic railroad represent one of the most popular attractions for nearby residents and for visitors to Northeast Ohio. In January, Sen. Brown announced that the U.S. Federal Transit

Administration awarded \$3.2 million to the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad to rebuild locomotives with energy-efficient technology, replace railroad power cars, and install a pedestrian bridge. These funds will help expand access to the Park's many attractions and ensure that the scenic railroad is safe and modern. Sen. Brown is a longtime supporter of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and has worked to secure federal funding to protect undeveloped land in the park and around the Blossom Music Center.

### **Sponsoring a Cleveland Student to Serve as Senate Page in Fall 2012**

Serving as a U.S. Senate Page is a highly educational and rewarding experience. Pages have the opportunity to see the inner workings of the U.S. Senate up close. A Cleveland Metropolitan School District student spent the fall in Washington as part of the Senate Page Program. Sen. Brown sponsored William Clayton, a Cleveland School of Science and Medicine junior, as one of 30 students from across the United States to serve as a page in the U.S. Senate this fall. William has earned a 4.3 grade point average at the Cleveland School of Science and Medicine, and in addition to excelling academically, he participates in the Law and Leadership Institute and is part of Ohio State University's Young Scholars Program.

The Senate Page Program is a highly competitive program; only a small number of students that apply are accepted. Senate pages live in Page Residence buildings and attend the Senate Page School. Interested students can apply on Sen. Brown's website.

## **Supporting Social Security, Medicare, and Healthcare**

### **Strengthening Community Health Centers in Northeast Ohio**

Community health centers play a vital role in Ohio's health care system, reducing emergency room use, and providing critical services to patients who otherwise would have no access to care.

In June, Sen. Brown announced four awards to expand access to quality health care and create jobs in Northeast Ohio. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded Health Center New Access Point grants to Akron Community Health Resources, Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services in Cleveland, the Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland, and Lorain County Health & Dentistry. The funds will create health center jobs and help more



Ohioans access more affordable preventive care rather than rely on costly emergency room visits – that are often billed to taxpayers. The grants were 4 of 219 awards to community health centers that are expected to create 5,640 jobs and expand care to more than 1.25 million new patients.

In December, Sen. Brown announced that Akron Community Health Resources, Inc., a medical center serving Summit County, received new federal resources to support and develop primary care health services. These resources will help Akron Community Health Resources, Inc. provide affordable and accessible health care to more of Akron's children, seniors, and parents.

### **New Health Care Equipment at Kent State University Salem Campus**

Providing up-to-date equipment and training for future healthcare providers is critical for ensuring student success during and after their education. Grant opportunities for purchasing new equipment and or upgrading old pieces of equipment are needed in colleges and universities around Ohio. Sen. Brown announced that Kent State University's Salem Campus was awarded a \$35,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to support improved academic instruction for more than 130 students and at least 75 trainees in the next three years, update equipment, and purchase an ultrasound scanner for the new Health and Sciences Wing at the Salem campus.

## **Advocating for Minority Communities in Northeast Ohio**

### **Moving the Needle Forward on Inclusion in Northeast Ohio**

With billions of dollars in new infrastructure and business investment in Northeast Ohio, opportunities are abound for sustained economic growth in our region. It has never been more important than now to ensure the success of small businesses that create local jobs and fuel our economy – particularly minority, women and historically disadvantaged small businesses.

In 2011, Sen. Brown helped to launch the grand opening of Ohio's Minority Business Development Center in Cleveland, Ohio. The Center works with minority entrepreneurs, helping them to gain access to capital and contract opportunities throughout the state. He also launched the Northeast Ohio Economic Inclusion Forum series in Cleveland. The four-part forum connected public, private, and non-profit leaders to leverage existing economic inclusion initiatives.

In June, the fourth and final forum was held at Key Center in Cleveland, and unveiled the regional action plan. The area's most influential leaders came together to leverage existing inclusion efforts while creating a new framework for success that ensures entrepreneurs receive fair access to current procurement opportunities. This series was specifically designed as a collaborative process, whereby nonprofits, business and government leaders were truly engaged to foster more prosperous businesses, create jobs, build thriving Ohio communities, and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

Sen. Brown also announced a new partnership between the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the U.S. Black Chamber, Inc. This alliance is aimed at connecting African-American entrepreneurs with the resources needed to grow their businesses and help create new jobs – especially in historically underserved communities. Additionally, Sen. Brown recently launched a new webpage designed specifically to help entrepreneurs in underserved communities connect with the SBA to help entrepreneurs transform their ideas into the next successful small businesses.

### **Fighting for Voting Rights**

The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy. But changes to voting laws threatened to suppress voting and make it more difficult for Ohioans to vote, disproportionately hurting minority and low-income populations. To examine these issues, Sen. Brown and Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL) held an official hearing of the Senate Judiciary

Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights at the Carl B. Stokes United States Federal Courthouse in May. The hearing examined the impact of Ohio's new voting law, H.B. 194, which would have reduced the number of early voting days from 35 to 17, eliminated voting on the weekend before an election, removed the requirement that poll workers direct voters to their proper precinct and prohibits county boards of elections from mailing unsolicited absentee ballots. U.S. Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-Warrensville) provided testimony at the hearing.

Supporters of laws that burden voting, such as reducing the number of early voting days, requiring voters to show restrictive forms of photo identification before voting, and more, argue that such laws will reduce the risk of voter fraud. The overwhelming evidence, however, indicates that voter fraud is virtually non-existent and that these new laws will make it harder for hundreds of thousands of elderly, disabled, minority, young, rural, and low-income Americans to exercise their right to vote.

Sen. Brown will continue to fight against burdens to voting. Ohio deserves better when it comes to protecting our most fundamental constitutional rights.

After battles in the courts over the new voting laws, the 2012 general election was conducted under prior state law, which allowed voting on the weekend before an election.

## **Strengthening Northeast Ohio Neighborhoods and Families**

### **Fighting the Practice of Bank Walkaways**

Following guidance released by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) advising banks on how to abandon homes under foreclosure, Sen. Brown released a letter he sent to the OCC urging stronger standards that will help keep Ohio families in their homes. At the headquarters of the Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland (NHS), Sen. Brown joined Jim Rokakis, director of the Thriving Communities Institute and former Cuyahoga County Treasurer, Lou Tisler, director of NHS, and Cleveland Heights homeowner Jeannette Smith detailing how bank walkaways hurt individual homeowners and entire communities.

Sen. Brown is the author of the *Foreclosure Fraud and Homeowner Abuse Prevention Act of 2011* that would protect homeowners and investors from some of the worst practices of the mortgage servicing industry while encouraging servicers to work with homeowners to find sustainable mortgages.



### **Strengthening Northeast Ohio's Housing Market**

With nearly 25% of Cuyahoga County homeowners underwater on their mortgages, Sen. Brown announced his support for a plan that would improve the housing market by addressing "short sale" home sales. *The Prompt Notification of Short Sales Act* would require banks to respond in a timely manner when prospective buyers are attempting to purchase such homes. Currently, short sales can take several months to a year to process. This legislation would



speed up the short sale process helping prospective homeowners and distressed homeowners alike while helping to rebuild Ohio's neighborhoods.

Joining Sen. Brown at the announcement was Seth Task, a Cleveland area realtor, and Victoria Machor, a Lorain resident who underwent a lengthy short sale process only to see her home sold for far less than the original offer she received.

### **Eliminating Food Deserts in Ohio Communities**

Having access to healthy food in neighborhoods is necessary for overall community health. However, several of Ohio's cities have what are known as "food deserts" or communities that do not have a supermarket or large grocery store within a one-mile radius. Sen. Brown wrote a letter of support to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Highland Square Grocery Store Project, which will construct a grocery store in an area in the City of Akron that was considered a "food desert." The project will receive a Section 108 loan guarantee through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and include the construction of a new grocery store in an area of the city not currently served by a fresh grocer. The store, which will be leased to a locally-owned grocer, will provide fresh food to Highland Square-area residents who currently lack a similar outlet. According to HUD, the City of Akron estimates that the project will create 57 full-time equivalent jobs.

### **Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank Earns National Award**

Too many Ohio families don't know where their next meal will come from. That's why the work of foodbanks across the state is so important. In April, Sen. Brown commended the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank on being named "2012 Member of the Year" by the Feeding America network of foodbanks. More than 200 foodbanks are members of the Feeding America network, and the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank received the honor on April 20 at the group's summit in Detroit.

## **Supporting Northeast Ohio's Agricultural and Rural Economy**

### **Helping Ashtabula County Businesses and Agricultural Co-Ops Recover from Spring Freeze**

Ashtabula County-based small businesses, nonprofits, and agricultural cooperatives were given access to federal resources to offset losses as a result of freezing temperatures that occurred in March and April. Sen. Brown announced in June that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) made federal economic injury disaster loans available for Ashtabula County businesses that faced an adverse economic impact as a result of the excessively cold temperatures. Under this declaration, SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program was made available to eligible farm and nonfarm entities that suffered financial losses as a direct result of the weather.

### **Supporting Local Farmers and Increasing Access to Locally-Grown, Healthy Foods**

Helping Northeast Ohio farmers sell their products directly to consumers can create jobs and increase the availability of nutritious, locally-grown foods to all Ohioans. In July, Sen. Brown and a top official from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service Administrator Audrey Rowe visited the West Side Market in Cleveland to announce new federal resources that makes wireless technology available to help farmers and vendors sell more



produce and goods to consumers. They were joined by a West Side Market vendor, David Divoky, who began accepting EBT payments approximately three months earlier and credit card payments last fall. The use of wireless technology has helped increase the profits of Mr. Divoky's Geauga County farm, Maple Valley Sugarbush & Farm, which he owns with his wife Donna.

In August, Sen. Brown's office co-hosted the statewide "Ohio Grown: Local Food Creating Local Opportunities" forum with USDA, and

OSU Extension to address Ohio's burgeoning local food movement and efforts to shape food policy to benefit local economies. Sen. Brown invited U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Kathleen Merrigan to deliver the keynote address, which focused on increasing access to locally-grown and healthy food. In addition, Oran Hesterman, president and CEO of Fair Food Network, discussed his efforts to promote better food systems that assure equal access to healthy, affordable foods for all income levels.

### **Growing Rural Businesses**

Small businesses are the backbones of local economies, creating up to two-thirds of new jobs across the country. Ensuring that Ohio's rural communities, including the small businesses in these communities, receive the resources and support needed is important for the growth and vitality of Ohio's communities.

Sen. Brown was pleased to announce a \$175,000 US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development grant awarded to Kent State University to fund a center that will provide technical assistance to worker-owned cooperative businesses in Ohio. Examples of technical assistance include help in marketing products, assistance creating new value-added products, and guidance setting up a new manufacturing process. These Rural Development resources will be vital to the growth of Portage County's small businesses.

### **Listening to Northeast Ohio Farmers**

With one in seven Ohio jobs tied to the food and agriculture industry, there is a large, diverse, and vibrant agricultural industry in Ohio. In June, the Senate passed a bipartisan, five-year farm bill, the *Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act*, but the House has failed to act.

Representatives from Sen. Brown's office and a Senior Economist for the Senate Agriculture Committee visited the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) in Wooster to answer questions and discuss the process for the Farm Bill moving forward. The representatives were joined by Steve Maurer, Executive Director of Ohio Farm Service Agency (OFSA), who answered questions on drought and USDA resources. Farmers, primarily dairy farmers, had the opportunity to interact with the Senate representatives and the Executive Director of the OFSA.

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# Northwest Ohio Regional Highlights

## Creating Jobs and Promoting Economic Development

### Promoting Northwest Ohio's Growing Auto Industry

The auto industry is vital to communities in every corner of Ohio, but especially to those in Northwest Ohio. In advance of the opening of the 2012 North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Sen. Brown joined the United Autoworkers and the Center for Automotive Research in Toledo to reveal new data showing that Ohio added more than 3,000 new auto jobs between 2009 and 2012, and by 2015, Ohio will add more than 3,500 new automotive jobs.



Since the auto rescue, Northwest Ohio has seen new, major investments at the Chrysler Assembly Complex in Toledo and at General Motors' Powertrain plant in Defiance. Chrysler announced that 2011 was the first year it saw net income since 1997, and in the spring of 2012 it reported a 20 percent increase in sales. Sen. Brown applauded this news and credited the company's employees and facilities in Northwest Ohio – as well as the auto rescue – as the keys to its success.

Sen. Brown has been an outspoken advocate for Ohio's auto industry. His office, along with the Board of Lucas County Commissioners, the Workforce Development Agency, and the Source of Northwest Ohio, convened an automotive workforce roundtable in January with Jay Williams, Executive Director of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers at the U.S. Department of Labor.

### Ensuring Workforce Stability at Lima Tank Plant

The Abrams tank is vital to our national security and keeping its production and modernization going is critical to our military readiness and preparedness. Sen. Brown applauded the December passage of the *National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA), which will keep jobs at the Lima Tank Plant through continued investment in the M1A2 Abrams tank program. The bill contains \$136 million in additional funding for Abrams tank procurement and \$129 million for modernization, which will ensure that the Lima plant can continue to operate at its current levels through Fiscal Year 2013. The Lima tank plant is a key part of Allen County's economy, and the NDAA will help ensure that this remains the case.

### **Applauding the Return of Locked-Out Cooper Tire Workers to the Production Line and New Federal Resources for Tire Technology**

More than 1,000 workers at Cooper Tire & Rubber Company – represented by the United Steelworkers (USW) Local 270 – were locked out of the Findlay manufacturing plant for nearly three months. Sen. Brown urged both Cooper Tire management and the USW to continue to work towards a new agreement, and in February he applauded the ratification of a labor agreement between the two parties.

Sen. Brown visited with Cooper Tire workers in early January and sent several letters to company CEO Roy Armes, urging Cooper Tire to remain at the bargaining table with its employees until an agreement was reached.

In July, Sen. Brown announced a \$6.8 million grant award to Cooper Tire from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Biomass Research and Development Initiative. As the lead partner in a consortium consisting of two universities, three areas of the USDA, and five companies, Cooper Tire will use these funds to study the use of the guayule plant as a major source of natural rubber.

### **Urging Full Utilization of Facilities at NASA Glenn's Plum Brook Station in Sandusky**

Plum Brook Station in Sandusky offers top-notch facilities, scientists, engineers, and technicians that are critical to NASA's success – and with aerospace as our nation's number one manufacturing export, this success means jobs. In April, Sen. Brown met with workers and toured Plum Brook's Space Power and B2 facilities, applauding Plum Brook's past successes and future promise for projects in the private sector, military, and NASA spheres. In March, at a U.S. Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing, Sen. Brown questioned NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden over NASA mission and resources decisions that affect both Lewis Field in Cleveland and Plum Brook Station in Sandusky, and urged Bolden to ensure that Plum Brook's facilities are fully utilized.

### **Announcing Workforce Development Training Funds for the Long-Term Unemployed**

Training and education for the long-term unemployed is an investment in Ohio's workforce that helps not only the individual participants but strengthens the economy as a whole. In February, Sen. Brown announced \$5 million in new U.S. Department of Labor funding to train 300 jobless Ohioans at Northwest State Community College in Archbold for careers in information technology, a field with emerging job opportunities in the region. Jobless workers can attend a 16-week information technology course, after which students will be placed with employers for an 18-week apprenticeship program.

Sen. Brown is working to tailor workforce development to the needs of regional, high-growth industries so that more workers can receive placements and more businesses could be attracted to a region based on a "clusters" approach. His bipartisan *Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success Act* would organize stakeholders connected to a regional industry, including business and labor leaders, education and training providers, and local workforce and education system administrators, to develop plans for growing that industry. The bill addresses the disparity between high unemployment rates and a shortage of skilled workers for many emerging industries.



### **Touting Research and Development at Owens-Illinois**

To help American manufacturing grow, Sen. Brown has championed legislation to promote research and innovation that can help create jobs here at home. In October, he visited the global headquarters of Owens-Illinois in Perrysburg to tour its lab, meet with workers, and discuss his bill, the *21<sup>st</sup> Century Investment Act of 2012*, which would expand the research and development (R&D) tax credit and support nearly one million good-paying American jobs. Owens-Illinois recently announced plans to open a new 18,000 square foot R&D center in Northwest Ohio that will create 45 jobs. With a stronger R&D tax credit, more companies can expand and hire workers in Ohio.

### **Strengthening Trade Enforcement to Protect Northwest Ohio Jobs**

#### **Defending American Manufacturing of Appliances**

Ohio companies can compete with anyone in the world, but unfairly-subsidized imports from foreign countries harm our ability to innovate and compete. After visiting the Clyde Whirlpool plant and meeting with workers in June, Sen. Brown sent a letter to the U.S. Commerce Department asking the agency to enforce trade laws so that companies like Whirlpool are guaranteed a level playing field on which to compete.

Five of Whirlpool Corporation's nine U.S. manufacturing plants are located in Ohio. Whirlpool has brought jobs to Ohio from overseas, and more than 80 percent of its products sold in America are made in the U.S. In December 2011, Whirlpool filed a case with the Commerce Department regarding the dumping of large residential washers, made in South Korea and Mexico, into the U.S. market.



Sen. Brown testified before the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) in December on behalf of Ohio's Whirlpool workers. The USITC held a hearing to determine whether the domestic industry was harmed due to unfairly dumped imports of washing machines made by companies in South Korea. Import duties play a major role in protecting Ohio jobs, leveling the playing field, and ensuring that America's trading partners play by the rules.

#### **Supporting Northwest Ohio's Solar Industry**

The Solar Energy Industries Association named Ohio as one of the top states for solar manufacturing capacity in the country. Northwest Ohio is a leader in Ohio's solar energy economy, but Ohio manufacturers are struggling to compete in an unfair global market. In particular, illegal Chinese trade practices have resulted in the dumping of crystalline silicon solar cells at far below fair value into the U.S. market. Sen. Brown wrote to President Obama in December 2011 expressing his support for a petition filed by a coalition of U.S. solar

manufacturers with the U.S. Commerce Department and International Trade Commission seeking relief from illegal Chinese trade practices. In May, the Commerce Department announced its decision to impose tariffs on unfairly subsidized solar panels from China, a move that Sen. Brown applauded.

That same month, Sen. Brown launched a tough proposal to loosen China's grip on the global solar panel market. The proposal would bar Chinese-made solar panels from qualifying for the 30 percent tax credit that U.S. individuals and businesses receive for purchasing and installing solar panels in their homes and businesses. Currently, the IRS provides tax incentives for all solar panels sold and installed in the United States, no matter where they are made.

### **Standing Up for American Auto Jobs Against Unfair Competition**

The auto industry is helping turn our economy around by reviving manufacturing across the nation, but its success is hampered when countries like China set unfair tariffs on American-made vehicles. Duties placed by the Chinese government affect more than 80 percent of American auto exports to China, including vehicles like Jeeps made in Toledo and Acuras made in Marysville. Sen. Brown sent a bipartisan letter to United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk asking him for action against China's decision to apply unfair tariffs on American-made vehicles, and in July applauded the Obama Administration's enforcement against China at the World Trade Organization.

## **Helping Northwest Ohio Small Businesses Grow and Add Jobs**

### **Highlighting Northwest Ohio's Small Business Manufacturing Growth**



The federal auto rescue and expanded loan resources through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) provided a lifeline for scores of companies in the auto supply chain. In April, Sen. Brown visited one such company, American Manufacturing of Toledo. An auto parts supplier once on the brink of closure due to the credit crunch and the downturn in the American auto industry, American Manufacturing is now more successful than ever thanks to the auto rescue and loans backed by the SBA. At one point down to just a handful of employees,

American Manufacturing has been able to fill more than 100 jobs in the last several years, and is looking to add still more positions as a result of increased demand from the Big Three carmakers. Sen. Brown met with employees, toured the company's facilities, and outlined how the company was saved from the brink of closure. American Manufacturing is just one of the many small and mid-sized parts suppliers that would have vanished had the American auto industry been allowed to collapse.

### **Promoting Tourism and Economic Development in Northwest Ohio**

Ohio has a strong tourism industry but more can be done to make sure visitors know about all of Ohio's world-class attractions. During a working conference call in July, Sen. Brown discussed strategies for boosting Ohio's tourism industry with representatives from Ohio's major tourism destinations, including Lake Erie Shores and Islands and Kalahari Resorts. They were also joined by Brand USA, a new public-private entity that seeks to bring more visitors to the United States and create additional economic activity and jobs in places like Ohio.

### **Fostering Initiatives that Nurture Small Businesses**

Small businesses and small towns are essential to our economy, and the USDA's Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program is designed to help both thrive and grow. In June, Sen. Brown announced new resources for programs benefiting small businesses and communities in Northwest Ohio. Ohio Northern University in Hardin County received support for its Entrepreneurship Program, which provides technical support for 20 local businesses, while WSOS Community Action Commission, based in Sandusky County, received support to establish an "economic gardening" initiative to nurture another 20 small businesses across fourteen Northwest Ohio counties.

## **Building Northwest Ohio Infrastructure and Transportation**

### **Marking the Passage of New Tour Bus Safety Law**

Following a 2007 bus crash that killed seven people, including five members of the Bluffton University baseball team, Sen. Brown worked alongside Ohio families to introduce bipartisan legislation addressing tour bus safety. In July, Sen. Brown joined John and Joy Betts—whose son David died in the Bluffton accident—a national safety advocate, and bus drivers to hail a new law that will require safety belts, stronger seating systems, and enhanced commercial driver training to improve tour bus safety.



Sen. Brown fought to include this bipartisan legislation as part of the highway bill reauthorization that was signed into law this year. The *Motorcoach Enhanced Safety Act* is based on National Transportation Safety Board recommendations, some of which were first proposed in 1968. The enactment of this legislation reflects a five-year struggle alongside the families of students who lost their lives in the crash involving the Bluffton University baseball team.

In December, Sen. Brown applauded the opening of the David Betts Memorial Baseball Diamond and delivered a speech on the floor of the Senate honoring the life of David Betts.

### **Working to Advance the Blanchard River Flood Mitigation Study**

The Blanchard River has repeatedly spilled over its banks, causing severe flooding in the City of Findlay and the Village of Ottawa. In 2007, the area suffered its most damaging flood event in

nearly 100 years, forcing hundreds of residents to evacuate and halting operations at area businesses. The flood caused \$50 million in damages in Findlay and \$20 million in damages in Ottawa. Private sector and community partners have already raised over \$6 million for the flood reduction project.

Sen. Brown has worked tirelessly to advance the Blanchard River flood mitigation project, which is critically important to homeowners and small business owners in Hancock and Putnam Counties. In April and December, he met in Washington with members of the Blanchard River Flood Reduction Project Coalition, and in May he sent a bipartisan letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers asking the Corps to prioritize efforts to enact a permanent flood control solution on the Blanchard River.

In December, Sen. Brown joined Sen. Rob Portman, Reps. Bob Latta and Jim Jordan to send a letter to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works urging assistance in expediting the Blanchard River Flood Reduction Project. The U.S. Army Corps' completion of the Chief's Report is crucial to expediting a solution to flood of the Blanchard River.

### **Calling for Use of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for Lake Erie Ports**

Ohio's ports and harbors are critical for our state's economic health. In August, Sen. Brown called on the federal Office of Management and Budget to utilize the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to begin repairs on Ohio's Lake Erie harbors. Harbor Maintenance Tax funds have previously been used in large part for purposes unrelated to ports or harbors. Sen. Brown urged that fund resources be spent on necessary but costly repairs that will support Ohio industry and attract new private investments to the area.

### **Improving Public Transit in Sandusky County**

Whether seniors need to visit the doctor or workers just need a ride to the job site, all Ohioans deserve access to reliable public transportation. A representative from Sen. Brown's office attended a ribbon-cutting for the new TRIPS Public Transit Facility in Fremont. Thanks to key federal investments, the new TRIPS Public Transit Facility will help improve the coordination of rides and public transit options for Sandusky County.

## **Supporting Servicemembers, Veterans, and Law Enforcement**

### **Pressing for New Resources and Support for Northwest Ohio Law Enforcement**

Law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every day to protect local citizens, and they deserve protection and support in return. Sen. Brown has pushed for resources to give law enforcement better tools to protect their communities and each other. In January, Sen. Brown joined the mother of a Toledo detective who was killed on the job in 2007 – as well as the City of Oregon police chief and President of the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police – to outline legislation that would create a national "Blue Alert" system aimed at apprehending criminals who injure or kill law enforcement officers serving in the line of duty. The system would be modeled after the "Amber Alert" system currently used to notify the public about a missing child. The alert system would be used to disseminate critical information about the suspect to law enforcement agencies, the public, and the media.



With Northwest Ohio bordering both Michigan and Indiana, a national Blue Alert system would help track down even those criminals who attempt to flee to other states. In a state like Ohio, which borders five other states, a national Blue Alert system could mean the difference between capturing an assailant and having him escape.

Another challenge that law enforcement officers face is the scourge of prescription drug theft and abuse in local communities. Sen. Brown has pushed for more resources for law enforcement to combat the growing problem of prescription drug theft. In August, Sen. Brown joined a Toledo pharmacy owner to outline legislation to crack down on drug burglaries, stiffen penalties for prescription drug theft, and provide law enforcement with additional tools to tackle the problem.

### **Connecting Northwest Ohio Veterans with New Employment Opportunities**

Sen. Brown was an original cosponsor of the *VOW to Hire Heroes Act*, a veterans' jobs law enacted in November 2011 that created the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). VRAP is a training initiative that provides unemployed veterans between the ages of 35 and 60 the opportunity to pursue training for new careers in high demand occupations.



In August, Sen. Brown joined veterans and workforce training officials at The Source, Lucas County's employment center, to encourage eligible Ohio veterans to apply for the VRAP program. Sen. Brown was joined by Kenneth Taylor, an unemployed Northwest Ohio veteran who will train for a new career at Owens Community College; Eric Walker, Director of The Source Northwest Ohio; and Lucas County Commissioners Pete Gerken, Tina Skeldon Wozniak, and Carol Contrada. With limited spaces available in the program nationwide, Sen. Brown urged veterans to apply as quickly as possible.

### **Hiring Northwest Ohio Veterans as Law Enforcement Officers**

An updated "Vets to COPS" program through the U.S. Department of Justice offers help for police departments and veterans alike by providing funding to allow law enforcement agencies to hire or rehire career law enforcement officers who are military veterans.

In June, Sen. Brown announced that Northwest Ohio police departments in both urban and rural communities received funding through the "Vets to COPS" program in 2012. The Village of

Republic in Seneca County received an award for an officer, and the City of Toledo received funding to hire 15 new officers.

### **Presenting Earned Medals to a World War II Veteran in Sandusky**

Ohio's veterans have made invaluable contributions to our fight for global security and democracy, but often do not receive the services and honors they earned in combat. Sen. Brown has presented overdue or replacement military medals to dozens of veterans around the state, including Delbert Cole, a 93-year-old World War II veteran living at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky. In January, Sen. Brown presented Mr. Cole with 11 war medals during a ceremony at the Ohio Veterans Home. Sen. Brown's office secured the replacement and new medals to present to Mr. Cole and his family. Among the awards was a Bronze Star, given to World War II soldiers who displayed courage in combat. Cole began his military career six months before the Pearl Harbor bombing in December 1941.



### **Announcing Confirmation of a New Judge for the U.S. Northern District Court**

The Northern District of Ohio's federal bench welcomed a new judge to its ranks when Jeffrey Helmick of Toledo was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in June. Sen. Brown applauded the confirmation of Helmick, which came almost two years after Sen. Brown and then-Sen. Voinovich submitted Helmick's name for consideration to the President, following the recommendation of a 17-member bipartisan judicial selection commission convened by Sens. Brown and Voinovich.

Sen. Brown introduced Helmick at the Senate's Judiciary Committee hearing in February, at which the Committee approved Helmick's nomination prior to consideration by the full Senate. Following the Senate confirmation vote, Sen. Brown spoke at Judge Helmick's October investiture ceremony in Toledo, commending his professionalism, his commitment to the law and to justice, and his demonstrated patience.

## **Protecting and Supporting Northwest Ohio Consumers**

### **Keeping College Affordable**

More than 382,000 Ohio college students, including 25,000 in Lucas County alone, would have been forced to pay significantly more for their student loans if the interest rate for federally-subsidized Stafford loans had doubled as scheduled on July 1, 2012. Sen. Brown joined students at Owens Community College in Perrysburg in June to call for passage of legislation to block the scheduled interest rate hike. In late June, just before the rate increase from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent would have gone into effect, Congress passed Sen. Brown's *Stop the Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act of 2012*, averting the increase.

### **Convening Workshops to Protect Seniors from Scams and Students from Bullying**

A variety of federal agencies offer educational resources to help protect vulnerable citizens. In April, Sen. Brown's office convened workshops around the state with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to educate senior citizens and those who work with them about avoiding frauds and scams that particularly target seniors. The FTC is charged with helping to prevent fraud, deception, and unfair business practices in the marketplace. Representatives from the Consumer Credit Counseling Service also participated. Northwest Ohio workshops were held at senior centers in Norwalk and Toledo.

Just as the elderly are sometimes targeted, young people sometimes find themselves victims. In May, Sen. Brown's office convened a series of workshops aimed to help schools address bullying. A "Combating Teenage Bullying in Your Schools" seminar was held in Bowling Green in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Federal Trade Commission, the Anti-Defamation League, Gay and Lesbian Education Network, and Equality Ohio.

## **Supporting Social Security, Medicare, and Healthcare**

### **Tackling the Drug Shortage Crisis**

Americans facing serious illness, such as cancer, should be able to focus on treatment of their disease without worrying about whether there is enough medicine available to help them get better. Shockingly, patients sometimes face delayed treatment or are denied life-saving medications altogether due to drug shortages. In February, Sen. Brown joined a Northwest Ohio lung cancer patient at the University of Toledo Medical Center to outline a bill that would address drug shortages. The patient had to change chemotherapy drugs twice – enduring three different treatments – as a result of drug shortages.



Sen. Brown's bill, the *Preserving Access to Life-Saving Medications Act*, would trigger an alert to the FDA before a possible drug shortage. The FDA would be required to provide updates to the public about potential shortages, allowing doctors, pharmacists, and patients to work together to avoid any interruption in care.

### **Urging U.S. EPA to work with Clyde Community in Investigating the "Cancer Cluster"**

The Clyde community deserves answers regarding the cancer cluster that has sickened too many of its children. After reports indicated the presence of toxic chemicals at a park in Clyde—a town that is the home of a child "cancer cluster," Sen. Brown urged the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) to work with the Clyde community and the current park owners to investigate the site.

A cancer cluster, as defined by the National Center for Environmental Health at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), is a “greater-than-expected number of cancer cases that occurs within a group of people in a geographic area over a defined period of time.” Since 1996, at least 37 children within a 12-mile wide circle of Clyde have been diagnosed with brain and central nervous system tumors, lymphoma, leukemia, and other forms of cancer. Four of these children have passed away.

In a letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson in November, Sen. Brown applauded the EPA for its diligence in testing sites in and around Clyde, but urged the agency to do more to keep families informed about the results.

### **Expanding Health Care Services for Northwest Ohio Residents**

Community health centers play a vital role in helping Ohioans obtain access to primary and preventive health care services. Neighborhood Health Association, Inc., a medical center serving Lucas County, and Health Partners of Western Ohio in Allen County received new resources from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to support and develop primary care health services. These new federal resources will help Neighborhood Health Association, Inc. and Health Partners of Western Ohio provide affordable and accessible health care to more of Toledo’s children, seniors, and parents.

## **Supporting Northwest Ohio’s Agricultural and Rural Economy**

### **Supporting Northwest Ohio Farmers**

#### **Listening to Northwest Ohio Farmers**

With one in seven Ohio jobs tied to the food and agriculture industry, there is a large, diverse, and vibrant agricultural industry in Ohio. In October, representatives from Sen. Brown’s office held a roundtable discussion in Bowling Green to hear from local farmers as well as to provide an update on the farm bill and discuss its provisions and possibilities. Steve Maurer, Executive Director of the Ohio Farm Service Agency, also attended the discussion to answer questions on drought and USDA resources. Participants included commodity farmers, specialty organic crop farmers, local food advocates, nutrition program representatives, health care professionals, and local government officials.

#### **Assisting Northwest Ohio Farmers During Summer Drought**

Many Ohio farmers and agricultural-related businesses found their livelihoods threatened by serious drought this summer – a drought that led the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to designate all 88 counties in the state as disaster areas. Sen. Brown was pleased to announce a number of resources provided by federal agencies to assist Ohioans affected by the drought. In July, new federal assistance was made available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, and non-profit organizations in Defiance, Fulton, Lucas, and Williams counties that experienced financial loss due to the drought. The Small Business Administration (SBA) announced additional resources for Fulton, Williams, Defiance, Paulding, and Van Wert



Counties later in the summer. In August, new USDA resources were made available for 24 Ohio counties. In September, Sen. Brown reported that additional assistance would be made available for farmers and agriculture-related businesses in Northwest Ohio's Ottawa, Erie, Lucas, Sandusky, Wood, Defiance, Paulding, Van Wert, and Williams Counties.

In June, Sen. Brown applauded Senate passage of a farm bill that would save taxpayers \$23 billion while creating jobs, boosting rural development, and extending critical disaster programs such as the drought relief assistance Ohio farmers and agricultural businesses depended on after the 2012 drought. The farm bill passed by the Senate included an amendment introduced by Sen. Brown that would fund critical USDA Rural Development programs that help Ohio communities update wastewater and sewer infrastructure systems, provide access to capital for Ohio agricultural producers and small businesses, and provide technical assistance to beginning farmers and ranchers.

## Protecting Lake Erie

Two of the greatest threats to the health of Lake Erie are algae blooms and the invasive species Asian carp, and Sen. Brown has championed legislation to address both. In October, Sen. Brown announced Ohio would receive two grants totaling nearly \$1 million to protect and maintain the physical integrity of many of Ohio's bodies of water, including Lake Erie. The University of Toledo received funding to use DNA for early detection of high-risk invasive species, such as Asian carp.

## Preventing Asian Carp from Reaching Lake Erie



An Asian carp invasion would cause irreparable damage to Ohio's multi-million dollar fishing and boating industries, and Sen. Brown continues to push for aggressive action to prevent an invasion. In June, Sen. Brown announced passage of the bipartisan *Stop Invasive Species Act*, of which he was an original cosponsor. The Act requires expedited creation of a plan to block Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes through a number of rivers and tributaries across the Great Lakes region. The Great Lakes, including Lake Erie, are dangerously vulnerable to an Asian carp invasion. This legislation requires the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to submit to Congress an expedited action plan with options for stopping the carp from penetrating the Great Lakes across 18 possible points of entry.

After the discovery of Asian carp environmental DNA in the Sandusky Bay and the Sandusky River in August, Sen. Brown renewed his push for hydrological separation as the best solution for keeping Asian carp out of Lake Erie.

In September, Sen. Brown announced support for the *Great Lakes Ecosystem Protection Act of 2012*, bipartisan legislation aimed at preserving the Great Lakes and bolstering economic growth



throughout the Great Lakes region by protecting the Lakes from a variety of ecological threats and invasive species. The Act would authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), an interagency effort, to target the most significant problems in the region and jumpstart restoration efforts at a level of \$475 million annually, and would reauthorize the *Great Lakes Legacy Act*.

In December, Sen. Brown and Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania announced the introduction of bipartisan legislation that would help prevent the invasion of Asian carp to the Ohio River basin. The *Strategic Response to Asian Carp Act* will enable the federal government to have a more effective partnership with state and local entities that are fighting to end the spread of Asian carp. For years, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has helped clean up and keep Lake Erie healthy for generations of Ohioans to enjoy. Sen. Brown also urged the Obama Administration to designate robust funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in the president's 2014 budget request.

### **Protecting Lake Erie from Algal Blooms**

Following last year's blue-green algae bloom in the Western Lake Erie Basin, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) directed new federal resources to help protect the Lake. In March, Sen. Brown joined USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack and other officials to announce \$2 million to help farmers in designated parts of Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana prevent phosphorus, a contributor to algae growth, from entering Western Lake Erie basin waterways. The funds will help farmers take measures to help limit phosphorus losses from agricultural operations, while helping support the millions of jobs that are generated through the hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation industry in the Western Lake Erie Basin.

### **Working Toward a Healthy Grand Lake St. Marys**

Grand Lake St. Marys in Mercer and Auglaize counties has been affected by toxic blue-green algae that has left the lake unsafe for swimming, contributed to a decline in tourism, and reduced economic activity and local business in the area. Sen. Brown has been working with local farmers, community leaders, and federal officials to take steps toward revitalizing Grand Lake St. Marys and the recreation, tourism, and boating industries that it supports.

In March, Sen. Brown announced new federal resources to help improve the water quality of Grand Lake St. Marys. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided \$1 million in federal funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) efforts in the Grand Lake St. Marys watershed. EQIP offers technical assistance for farmers to plant cover crops, build manure storage facilities, install filter strips, and complete other conservation measures that keep phosphorus out of Grand Lake St. Marys. Studies on Grand Lake St. Marys have shown that excess phosphorus loading of the lake has been the primary reason for toxic algae blooms during the past few summers.

Sen. Brown, the first Senator from Ohio to serve on the Agriculture Committee in 40 years, has worked during the past three years to secure water quality conservation resources for Grand Lake St. Marys that encourage farmers to use best practices – including cover crops and buffer strips – that, in the long run, will improve health of the lake.

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# Southwest Ohio Regional Highlights

## Creating Jobs and Promoting Economic Development

### Rescuing the Auto Industry: More Jobs and Cleaner Cars



Americans are demanding high-tech, energy-efficient cars, and Ohioans are developing and building them. Sen. Brown is working to foster clean energy manufacturing while expanding Ohio's auto industry. In January, Sen. Brown traveled to Detroit, Michigan to join Amp Electric Vehicles, a Loveland based automotive manufacturer, as they revealed a new electric Jeep model at the North American International Auto Show. Sen. Brown also met with United Autoworkers and representatives from the Center for Automotive Research (CAR) to discuss how

the auto rescue not only stabilized Chrysler and General Motors, but also helped save and add manufacturing jobs throughout Ohio. CAR's analysis revealed that Ohio added more than 3,000 new auto jobs between 2009 and 2010, and by 2015, Ohio could add more than 3,500 jobs in the automotive sector.

### Training Southwest Ohioans for Jobs in Growing Industries

Ohio's manufacturing tradition is part of what makes our state great but Ohio workers must be trained for the high-tech jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Many hardworking Ohioans continue to struggle to find jobs while high-tech industries search to fill vacancies. Investments in high-tech job training will help unemployed workers find jobs and attract new employers to Ohio.

In January, Sen. Brown visited Cincinnati State Technical and Community College to announce an effort to connect out-of-work Ohioans with jobs in emerging and high-tech industries in Cincinnati. Sen. Brown highlighted a successful industry-sector jobs program that has trained hundreds of unemployed Ohioans for jobs in the emerging bioscience industry. He also outlined his bipartisan *Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success (SECTORS) Act*, legislation that would help unemployed workers train for high-tech jobs in their region. By tailoring workforce development to the needs of regional, high-growth industry, more workers receive placements and more businesses in the same "cluster" are attracted to the region.

In September, Sen. Brown announced new federal resources for the Clermont Campus of the University of Cincinnati to train 100 workers for jobs in advanced manufacturing. The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) awarded the grant to the University of Cincinnati's Center for Advanced Manufacturing to lease, improve, and furnish additional space in a former automobile plant for labs and classrooms. The expansion will allow the Center for Advanced

Manufacturing to train more unemployed or underemployed workers for jobs in high-tech manufacturing.

### **Strengthening Ohio's Aerospace Industry and Boosting Economic Development**

Ohio is an aerospace leader because we know how to design and build exceptional machinery. Ohio's innovative scientists and engineers, manufacturing strength, and talented workforce have driven our aerospace success over the last century. According to the Ohio Aerospace Institute, more than 1,200 companies support more than 120,000 jobs in Ohio's aerospace industry. From Cincinnati to Dayton to Columbus to Cleveland, hundreds of Ohio suppliers provide parts and components to cutting edge aerospace machinery. Sen. Brown is working to connect aerospace suppliers with more business. That's why he partnered with Airbus Americas to formalize a partnership between the company and Ohio suppliers, aimed at growing the state's aerospace industry.

In 2009 and 2010, Sen. Brown worked with the Ohio Edison Technology Centers and the Ohio Aerospace Institute to organize three procurement conferences – in Cleveland, Kettering, and Columbus – that connected more than 800 Ohio businesses and participants with opportunities to break into the Airbus supply chain. The summits were unique because they directly connected suppliers to potential contracting opportunities.



As a result of this partnership, in January, Sen. Brown joined Airbus and the National Composite Center (NCC) in Kettering to announce the establishment of a new aerospace research and development consortium. Under a five-year agreement and with an initial \$1 million investment, Airbus is working through the NCC with a consortium of Ohio aerospace suppliers, incubators, and universities to develop next-generation products for use in Airbus' new fleet.

In October, Sen. Brown brought Airbus and the NCC together again to announce a new partnership to identify and develop aerospace suppliers across Ohio. These suppliers will have the opportunity to compete for contract work with Airbus, ultimately leading to the creation of a centralized Ohio Materials Manufacturing Technology Hub that will focus on state-of-the-art materials processing, business analytics, supply chain development, and workforce training and development. This agreement has the potential to increase investment even further so that dozens and dozens of Ohio aerospace companies can be involved. This investment will further strengthen the Ohio manufacturing and material supply chain for Airbus and increase business for Ohio aerospace suppliers.

### **Advancing Aviation Technology: Testing Unmanned Aircraft Systems in Southwest Ohio**

Southwest Ohio has the aviation leadership, skilled workforce, innovative businesses, and strong military ties to become the nation's premiere test site for Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)



technologies. This industry has the potential to create high-paying research and manufacturing jobs in Ohio. In April, Sen. Brown announced that Sinclair Community College received approval for UAS testing at Springfield Air National Guard Base.

Sen. Brown is urging the Obama Administration to locate the testing site in the Miami Valley. He also successfully amended the *Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act* to increase the number of designated UAS testing sites across the country and save taxpayer dollars by ensuring sites selected have the infrastructure necessary to carry out these tests.

Sen. Brown then visited the UAS training center at Sinclair Community College in August to outline his plan to bolster emerging regional industries like UAS by ensuring that Ohioans have the necessary skills and training needed to attract and fill high-tech jobs.

### **Protecting U.S. Postal Service Jobs & Services in Southwest Ohio**

The closure of dozens of postal processing centers and post offices would be devastating for thousands of Ohioans and could have a serious impact on local economies. As the United States Postal Service (USPS) considered various options to streamline and consolidate operations, Sen. Brown repeatedly lobbied the USPS to save jobs and maintain service across Ohio. Because of his work, a number of Mail & Processing Distribution Centers and many rural post offices throughout the state will remain open while the USPS takes steps to support the postal service's long-term solvency. In February, Sen. Brown announced that Cincinnati's Dalton Avenue mail processing and distribution center will remain open.

In February, however, the USPS also announced plans to close nine Mail & Processing Distribution Centers in Ohio—including the Dayton mail processing and distribution center—despite a moratorium aimed at preventing consolidation until Congress passed postal reform legislation. Sen. Brown called on the USPS to halt consolidation and joined the City of Dayton and the Dayton Development Coalition in expressing concern that the Dayton closure would hurt service for Miami Valley businesses. In March, Sen. Brown met with Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe to push the USPS to minimize the closure of processing centers and postal offices in Ohio, preserve rural post offices, and maintain six-day mail delivery.

In April, the Senate passed a postal reform bill to temporarily preserve Ohio's USPS, including Saturday delivery. Sen. Brown continues to support a compromise that will support USPS workers, protect taxpayers, and maintain consistent, high-quality mail service.

### **Rehabilitating Middletown's Downtown Core**

Rehabilitating vacant and abandoned buildings will drive more business to downtown cores, support property values, and increase economic growth. Sen. Brown worked to secure a \$1

million loan guarantee from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development for the City of Middletown to start the first phase of a downtown rehabilitation project. This financing will help the City of Middletown redevelop its downtown—creating construction jobs, attracting businesses, and boosting city revenue. Sen. Brown worked to secure the loan guarantee. One of the buildings will be leased to Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, which is partnering with more than 30 local businesses to train current employees and unemployed workers for new and advanced careers.

### **Promoting Tourism and Boosting Economic Development in Southwest Ohio**

Ohio has a strong tourism industry but there is more to be done to make sure visitors know about all of Ohio's world-class attractions. During a working conference call in July, Sen. Brown discussed strategies for boosting Ohio's tourism industry with representatives from the Freedom Center, National Aviation Hall of Fame, Dayton Performing Arts Alliance, and other Ohio stakeholders. They were joined by Brand USA, a new public-private entity that seeks to bring more visitors to the United States and to create economic activity and jobs in Ohio and across the nation. Washington needs Ohio's ideas and it is important for Sen. Brown to hear from Ohio's tourism industry leaders to help put their ideas into action.

## **Helping Southwest Ohio Small Businesses Grow and Add Jobs**

### **Helping Southwest Ohio Small Businesses to Increase Exports**

It is critical that more Ohio small businesses become engaged in the global economy and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has programs that can be leveraged to help small businesses expand into new markets and hire workers. In April, Sen. Brown and SBA Deputy Administrator Marie Johns visited KOST USA, Inc. – a family-owned small business in Cincinnati that has hired nearly 30 workers because of two SBA 504 loans – to announce additional resources available for Ohio companies looking to grow by increasing exports.

### **Keeping Clothing Manufacturing Jobs in Ohio**

Ohio is a great place to do business, but small business owners also know that our nation's tax code encourages them to ship jobs overseas. A Darke County business owner advised a key Senate Committee in Washington in July and discussed his experience as an Ohio small business owner competing in the apparel industry. Sen. Brown nominated Lawson Nickol, owner of the All American Clothing Co, to join job creators from around the U.S. to testify before the Senate Democratic Steering Committee. Nickol's All American Clothing Company was opened 10 years ago and sells only USA-Made clothing.

Sen. Brown is working to pass the *Bring Jobs Home Act* to help small business owners like Nickol and end the backwards practice that allows businesses to deduct from their taxes the cost of shipping jobs overseas. Sen. Brown's office has been working with Nickol on his plans to create more jobs in Darke County.

Nickol founded the All American Clothing Company in 2002 after learning that his previous employer was outsourcing some of its work to Mexico. The company has experienced growth every year since its inception. Nickol now has plans to expand his business. Recently, Nickol



purchased a new facility that will allow him to expand operations, increase his payroll, and create more jobs in Southwest Ohio.

### **Connecting Small and Mid-Sized Manufacturers to Supply Chains**

Ohio's strong defense presence can boost our state's already strong legacy in manufacturing. By connecting Ohio businesses with the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) supply chain, Ohio businesses can expand manufacturing and innovation, maintain and create more jobs, and generate economic activity in the Miami Valley and throughout Ohio. A representative from Sen. Brown's office attended the "Ohio Defense Connects" conference in Dayton in August to discuss efforts to connect Ohio's small and mid-sized manufacturers with the DOD supply chain. These connections will ensure that Ohio manufacturers have access to federal resources and opportunities to tap into existing business opportunities—particularly at Wright Patterson Air Force Base and other DOD installments.

## **Strengthening Trade Enforcement to Protect Southwest Ohio Jobs**

### **Fighting Chinese Currency Manipulation to help Miami Valley Manufacturers**

Currency manipulation is an illegal trade practice in which the Chinese government intentionally devalues its own currency against the United States dollar, resulting in artificially expensive American imports to China and artificially cheap Chinese imports to the United States. This puts Ohio and American manufacturers at a serious disadvantage and makes it more difficult for American companies to compete against Chinese companies.

In January, Sen. Brown visited Harco Manufacturing in Moraine to call on the House of Representatives to pass legislation that would allow the U.S. to stand up for American manufacturers when China cheats by manipulating its currency. Sen. Brown joined Harco General Manager Rick Garver, Dayton City Commissioner Nan Whaley, and Montgomery County Commissioner Judy Dodge to discuss how Ohio companies are losing business and are being undercut by 25-40 percent on price by Chinese competitors, Sen. Brown outlined how his China currency legislation would create jobs and provide immediate relief to Ohio manufacturers facing a flood of cheap Chinese imports – at no cost to taxpayers – if it is passed by the House of Representatives and signed by the President. Sen. Brown's bill, the *Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act of 2011*, cleared the Senate in October 2011 by a vote of 63-35 – representing the biggest bipartisan jobs package passed by the Senate last year.

### **Fighting Against Chinese Trade Barriers on American-Made Steel**

We know how to make things in Ohio—especially steel. Ohio workers can compete with anyone in the world, but only when the playing field is level. In June, The World Trade Organization (WTO) ruled that duties placed by China on American steel violate the WTO rules. China argued that U.S. "Buy America" provisions included in the *Recovery Act* acted as a subsidy that warranted duties. The WTO ruled that China's retaliatory duties were a clear violation of international trade law. China appealed the ruling, but the decision was upheld by the WTO in October. Sen. Brown highlighted how both decisions will remove barriers that prevent companies like AK Steel from selling their products in the global marketplace. AK Steel employs about 6,200 workers in Middletown, Mansfield, Coshocton and Zanesville, as well as sites in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Indiana.

### **Keeping Production Costs Low for Ohio Manufacturers by Renewing Duty Suspensions**

Keeping production and overhead costs low for Ohio manufacturers is vital to saving Ohio jobs. Sen. Brown introduced three bills to renew duty suspensions on chemicals used by BASF in Greenville to manufacture concrete and automotive coatings. The bills would temporarily suspend duties on chemicals not otherwise produced in the U.S., helping to save jobs at BASF and keeping production costs low. The bills would help ensure that BASF can continue to do business in Darke County.

### **Honoring a Miami County Company for Excellence in Exports**

Exports help to create jobs in Ohio and are a key factor in our economic recovery. French Oil Mill Machinery Co. of Piqua exemplifies Ohio's proud legacy of production and enhance our state's ability to be a major player in the international market. In May, Sen. Brown recognized French Oil Mill Machinery Co. for receiving the Presidential "E" Award for Exports from the U.S. Department of Commerce. The "E" Star Award for Exports recognizes sustained, superior performance in increasing or promoting exports. Founded in 1900, French Oil Mill Machinery is a family-owned company that designs and manufactures equipment for the molding, oilseed, pulping, and synthetic rubber industries.

### **Helping Southwest Ohioans Affected by Trade Get Back on Their Feet**

Ohioans who work hard and play by the rules should not be left to struggle when they lose their job through no fault of their own. The federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program provides aid to workers who lose their jobs or whose work hours and wages are reduced as a result of increased imports. In early 2012, Appleton Papers announced that it would be downsizing one of its major factories in West Carrollton, a community near Dayton. The downsizing effectively left 330 Southwest Ohioans out of work. Sen. Brown urged the U.S. Department of Labor to approve the TAA petition application filed on behalf of workers at the West Carrollton factory. In June, Sen. Brown announced that the workers were eligible to apply for assistance through the U.S. Department of Labor.

TAA assistance was also awarded to workers at two Southwest Ohio companies. Approximately 80 workers at Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company, LLC in Norwood and Lebanon and 30 workers at Ahlstrom West Carrollton LLC in Montgomery County will receive assistance. In December the U.S. Department of Labor approved certification for 120 workers at Fortis Plastics, LLC in Clinton County to apply for worker adjustment assistance. These resources will help displaced workers with financial support and training opportunities to get a fresh start.

### **Working Together to Protect Domestic Paper**

The domestic paper industry is being undermined and undercut by illegal trade practices from other countries. In June, Sens. Brown and Portman worked together to protect hard-working Ohioans by urging the International Trade Commission (ITC) to continue existing antidumping and countervailing duty orders that help defend jobs at Mead Products in Kettering. With current duties at risk of expiring, the Senators sent a letter to the Chair of the ITC asking the commission to maintain existing relief against unfairly traded imports of lined paper school supplies from China, India, and Indonesia. These orders—which went into effect in 2006 and are reviewed every five years—are critical for Mead Products to maintain jobs and keep prices fair for domestically produced lined paper. The company employs 250 workers in Kettering.

## **Building Southwest Ohio Infrastructure and Transportation**

### **Creating Jobs and Building a Safer Bridge**

Investments in road construction projects and bridge repairs put Ohioans back to work, while promoting economic growth. With a strong display of bipartisanship in March, the U.S. Senate passed a transportation jobs bill – *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* – which will provide critical funds and jump start important infrastructure projects like repairing Brent Spence Bridge.

In May, as a House-Senate conference committee finalized a transportation jobs bill, Sen. Brown and Reps. Geoff Davis (R-KY) and Jean Schmidt (R-OH) expressed bipartisan, bicameral support and urged conferees to include a provision to support large-scale transportation projects of “national and regional significance” – like the Brent Spence Bridge – in the final version of the highway bill. Sen. Brown will continue to support critical infrastructure projects that create and protect jobs and increase economic competitiveness.

In advance of a meeting between Gov. John Kasich of Ohio and Gov. Steve Beshear of Kentucky, Sen. Brown expressed support for efforts to accelerate replacement of the Brent Spence Bridge. The governors announced an agreement to create a dedicated, cross-state management team to explore financing options for improvements on the bridge. The Brent Spence Bridge carries millions of dollars of our nation’s goods across the Ohio-Kentucky state line every day. It is important that both state and federal leaders work together to ensure this bridge renovation moves forward.

### **Connecting Southwest Ohio to the Nation by Increasing Flights**

In an age where business occurs on a global scale, easy access to New York City and other destinations is crucial for the success of Dayton businesses. In early 2012, Delta Airlines announced that it would discontinue daily, nonstop flights from Dayton International Airport (DAY) to New York’s LaGuardia Airport (LGA). Averaging around three flights per day, the Delta trips to New York were considered an essential component of Dayton’s business advantage. In February, Sen. Brown joined the outcry from local Dayton officials by writing a letter to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. Sen. Brown urged Mr. LaHood to consider the consequences of ending the nonstop flights to LaGuardia for Dayton businesses. In October, Sen. Brown announced that DAY will again provide two direct daily flights to and from LGA beginning January 4, 2013.

### **Modernizing I-75 to Improve Safety and Increase Economic Growth**

The vast network of roads across Ohio connects towns and cities across our great state. Maintenance of these roads not only ensures that Ohioans can travel safely, but also provides jobs for Ohioans, strengthens communities, and moves commerce. In June, Sen. Brown joined workers and local business owners in Dayton to stress the importance of the *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act*, known as the highway bill, which funds the I-75 Modernization Program. This program is widening the highway to three lanes in both directions to ease the heavy traffic flow and replace bridges to improve safety. It will do more than reduce traffic congestion and update aging bridges; it will help the Miami Valley grow – through jobs

and economic development. Hundreds of Ohioans are at work on the I-75 modernization project. Currently, 120,000 cars and 20,000 commercial trucks travel through the I-75 corridor each day.

In August, Sen. Brown announced that the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) will receive new federal resources to help improve I-75 in Dayton from Fifth Street to Riverview Avenue. The reconstruction will consolidate ramps into a centrally located interchange that will help Dayton make the needed repairs and keep Ohioans moving.

### **Building Broadband Infrastructure to Connect Rural Ohioans in Southwest Ohio**

Internet affordability, reliability, and adoption challenges persist in many parts of Ohio. By bridging the so-called “digital divide” and expanding broadband service, Ohio’s rural schools, businesses, and communities will have an opportunity to compete on a national and global level. In July, Sen. Brown announced new resources to connect 6,000 rural Ohioans with affordable broadband service. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC)’s Connect America Fund helps to connect rural Ohio to the Web and will provide Frontier Communications Corp. and CenturyLink Inc. in Ohio with \$1,814,100 to build broadband infrastructure in more than 2,300 locations across the state over the next three years.

Sen. Brown has worked tirelessly to bring broadband access to Ohio’s rural communities. In April, he introduced the Connecting Rural America Act, which would strengthen U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs that provide for the construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment to provide broadband service to underserved, rural communities. This legislation was included in the *Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act* – the Senate farm bill – which reauthorizes the existing Rural Broadband Loan Program.

### **Federal Resources to Improve Southwest Ohio Airports**

All of Southwest Ohio’s airports provide important travel services to the region. The Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) was awarded Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) resources in 2012 to improve the runway and taxiway. In addition, the Butler County Regional Airport received FAA funds to improve its taxiway and remove obstructions in the runway approach surface. The Butler County Regional Airport provides important travel services to Hamilton-area business travelers, flight students, and visitors. These funds will improve the safety and efficiency at CVG and the Butler County Regional Airport so that they can remain a reliable option for air travelers in Southwest Ohio.

### **Improving Wastewater Management in Montgomery County**

Water and sewer infrastructure is critical to economic competitiveness. While all Ohioans deserve access to clean water, many communities are struggling to afford costly but necessary upgrades to water systems. Sen. Brown announced in June that the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners was awarded a \$2,482,000 loan and a \$2,128,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)’s Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program to construct a new wastewater collection system for the Village of Phillipsburg. These new resources will help the Village of Phillipsburg make long-overdue updates and maintain a modern sewage system that can help attract new jobs and economic development.

In February, Sen. Brown introduced *the Clean Water Affordability Act*, legislation that would help communities make renovations to outdated sewer systems, while improving water quality and keeping rates affordable for residents and small business.

## **Supporting Servicemembers, Veterans, and Law Enforcement**

### **Protecting Southwest Ohio's First Responders**

Ohio's first responders put their lives on the line every day. Sen. Brown continues to fight for additional funds to ensure that firefighters across the state have the resources they need to perform their jobs safely. In 2012, Southwest Ohio communities were among those awarded grants through the federal Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program and the SAFER program, including the Crosby Township Fire Department, Clearcreek Fire Department in Springboro, Batvia Fire Department, Fire Department of Middletown, Mason Fire Department, Cincinnati Fire Department, and Piqua Fire Department.

### **Connecting Southwest Ohio Veterans with New Employment Opportunities**

Sen. Brown was an original cosponsor of the *VOW to Hire Heroes Act*, a veterans jobs law enacted in November that created the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). VRAP is a joint Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Labor training initiative that provides unemployed veterans between the ages of 35 and 60 the opportunity to pursue training for new careers in high demand occupations. VRAP offers up to 12 months of training assistance to unemployed veterans.

In July and August, Sen. Brown traveled across Ohio to encourage eligible Ohio veterans to apply. In Youngstown, Dayton, and Toledo, Sen. Brown joined veterans who will train for new careers at Ohio schools to encourage more Ohio veterans to apply for VRAP assistance.



### **Listening to the Concerns of Southwest Ohio Veterans**

Too many veterans face difficulties in transitioning from service to citizen, or struggle to attain the benefits and services they earned. That is why Sen. Brown convened field hearings, roundtables, and jobs fairs across Ohio to hear directly from veterans and to examine how the VA can better serve veterans throughout the state. In April, Sen. Brown's office held roundtables in Lima, Sidney, and Dayton to listen to and discuss the concerns of veterans. The conversations included topics about the defense budget, TRICARE, VA efficiency and prescriptions, protection of veteran benefits, the accessibility of jobs, and more.

### **Housing Veterans Health Archives in Dayton**

The Miami Valley's proud military tradition would make it a fitting home to the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Archives. This facility would promote economic development and solidify Ohio as the nation's leader in veteran's medical care and expertise. In July, Sen. Brown



urged the Obama Administration to expedite the establishment and construction of VHA Archives at the VA Medical Center campus in Dayton. In a letter to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki, Sen. Brown asked the VA to move up the project on the list of prioritized projects.

Currently, the VA archives are kept in multiple locations. When the VHA decided to consolidate its archives into one central location, Dayton was immediately considered as a potential home. If Dayton is chosen, the facility would be open to the public and would bring jobs to the Miami Valley, solidifying its reputation as a region with a high-concentration of military and veterans' expertise and knowledge.



### **First Female 4-Star General Confirmed as Commander of Air Force Materiel Command**

Janet C. Wolfenbarger – a native of Beavercreek– was confirmed in June to become the next commander of the Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC), making her the first female 4-star general in the history of the United States Air Force. Sen. Brown congratulated Gen. Wolfenbarger for this well-deserved promotion and was proud that the Air Force's first female four-star general was born in Ohio and will serve in our state as the commander of the AFMC. With roots in the Miami Valley, Gen. Wolfenbarger has shown strong leadership and an eagerness to serve throughout her career, and the men and women of the U.S. Air Force have relied on her experience and courage.

### **Heroes Welcoming Heroes**

Ohio's servicemembers put their lives on the line for their nation and have earned our respect and deep gratitude. Sen. Brown's office joins their loved ones and all Ohioans in welcoming them back. Representatives from Sen. Brown's office were in attendance to celebrate as returning service members from the United States Air Force enjoyed the bi-annual "Heroes Welcoming Heroes" event at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in May. The ceremony honors the service of the returning veterans as well as the heroes at home such as spouses, children, and other family members of those serving in the Air Force.

### **Nominating Southwest Ohio Students to U.S. Service Academies**

Ohio schools are training leaders for the next generation of military personnel, and Sen. Brown is honored to nominate outstanding students for our prestigious U.S. Military Service Academies. In January, Sen. Brown proudly nominated seven high school seniors from Southwest Ohio to attend national service academies. Students from Clermont, Greene, Montgomery, and Warren Counties and were nominated to attend the Air Force, Merchant Marine, Naval, and Military Academies. Nomination to a service academy is one of the highest honors a high school senior can receive. These students embody the integrity and courage needed to represent and uphold the values of our nation. Sen. Brown is grateful for their dedication to serving our country.

### **Upgrading Transportation Service for Veterans in Montgomery County**

The Miami Valley is home to thousands of veterans and military families. Whether they need to access services at the local VA or just to get to work, our veterans—like all Ohioans—deserve access to reliable transportation. Sen. Brown announced in July that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Transit Administration awarded \$450,000 to Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (Dayton RTA) in Montgomery County to improve transportation options for veterans. The funds will help improve the coordination of rides and public transit options for military families in the Dayton area.

### **Helping Homeless and Low-Income Veterans**

We as Americans have promised the men and women of the Armed Forces that if they defend our country, a grateful nation will provide them with the services and benefits they have earned. New federal resources announced in July will provide critical support services for homeless and low-income veterans in Cincinnati. Sen. Brown announced that the Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries Rehabilitation Center, Inc. in Hamilton County was awarded a new federal grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Service for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. The \$596,984 grant will be used to provide supportive services to low-income veteran families living in or transitioning to permanent housing.

### **Protecting Servicemembers and Their Families at Home**

Too often, increased deployments for our troops have been met with growing abuses of servicemembers' rights. Servicemembers have experienced issues including: financial institutions initiating foreclosure proceedings while a servicemember is deployed; delays in ballot transmission; and high unemployment. That's why—in advance of forum at Wright Patterson Air Force Base—Sen. Brown announced a new effort to ensure our nation's servicemembers' and their families' rights are protected. The *Servicemembers' Protection Act* would protect military families by barring unlawful foreclosure, voter disenfranchisement, and employment discrimination of our nation's troops and their families.

### **Cutting Red Tape for Servicemembers to Get Freight Industry jobs**

Our servicemembers acquire skills in the military that should translate seamlessly to the civilian workforce. If they can operate a truck on a military base in Afghanistan, then they should be able to use those skills on the road in Kettering or Springboro. But many veterans face red tape and roadblocks when they try to apply their military skills and training to the civilian job market. Sen. Brown cosponsored bipartisan legislation, now awaiting signature by the president, aimed at cutting red tape for servicemembers so that they can get the certification needed to work in the freight industry.

## **Protecting Public Health and Safety**

### **Helping Southwest Ohioans Rebuild after Severe Weather**

As a result of devastating tornadoes, severe storms, and high winds that hit Southwest Ohio in March, many residents were without homes, communities suffered fatalities, and businesses and government facilities were damaged. The Village of Moscow sustained significant damage from the storms. More than 80 percent of homes were adversely impacted, a third of them destroyed or uninhabitable.



After the storms, Sen. Brown helped to open a new temporary center to offer assistance to those who were greatly affected by the storms. The center aids Southwest Ohioans seeking to apply for low-interest disaster loans in order to rebuild their homes and businesses. Sen. Brown will continue working to ensure adequate state and federal resources are available for Ohioans to rebuild their homes and businesses as well as to get affected Southwest Ohio communities back on their feet.

### **Cleaning Up Brownfield Sites in Southwest Ohio**

Ohio's brownfield sites, plots of land that are undevelopable due to pollution and hazardous waste, can be opportunities for redevelopment and growth. In May, Sen. Brown was pleased to announce a \$200,000 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant award to the Village of Lockland in Hamilton County to inventory brownfield sites and conduct environmental site assessments. These funds will help support clean-up and decontamination efforts critical for the safety and economic success of Lockland.

## **Protecting Southwest Ohio Consumers and Middle Class**

### **Protecting Seniors from Internet and Telemarketing Scams**

Criminals may see seniors—who have often saved their entire lives to enjoy retirement—as ripe targets for financial fraud. Internet and telemarketing scams are always troubling, but the targeting of senior citizens is particularly disturbing. In April, Sen. Brown's office and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) hosted free seminars in Cincinnati and Trotwood for seniors aimed at helping them protect their finances and avoid fraud and scams. The FTC is charged with helping to prevent fraud, deception, and unfair business practices in the marketplace. By providing seniors with the tools to protect themselves, we can prevent scams while providing retirees with the information they need to keep their nest egg safe and sound.

### **Protecting Children from Harmful Consumer Products**

After children's hospitals in Columbus, Cleveland, and Cincinnati reported to Sen. Brown that they are treating more and more children who have swallowed harmful and potentially fatal high-powered magnets. Sen. Brown urged the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to act to warn parents about these shiny, round magnets marketed as "Buckyballs," among other labels, which may appear like candy to children.

Due to the strength of these 'rare earth' magnets, when children swallow more than one, they attract to one another inside of a child's body, and can perforate children's stomachs, tear through intestines, rip the bowel, and damage other organs as magnets connect to one another. Too many children who have ingested these magnets have required multiple surgeries while

other children have died. Two weeks after Sen. Brown called on the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to protect children from potentially fatal high-powered magnets, the CPSC moved to ban the sale of “Buckyballs” from store shelves.

### **Fighting to End the Sports Blackout Rule**

Ohio sports fans should be able to watch their home team play on basic television, regardless of whether the game sells out. In January, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced that it is planning to reconsider the Sports Blackout Rule, a 1970s-era regulation that allows sports leagues like the NFL to black out broadcasts of a local sports game when the game does not sell out.

At the urging of Sen. Brown, the FCC released a petition urging the agency to open the Sports Blackout Rule for public feedback, the first step in repealing the regulation. Sen. Brown also encouraged Ohio football fans to contact the FCC and let them know how they feel about this outdated regulation, which is unfair to teams, fans, and taxpayers.

In July, the NFL announced the adoption of a new policy that would allow teams to lift local blackouts if at least 85 percent of seats are filled within 72 hours of kickoff. This overturns a longtime requirement that the stadium be filled to capacity before local television blackouts could be lifted. While the NFL’s new policy is an important step in addressing the outdated blackout policy, it also included a punitive portion that requires teams to forgo a significant portion of revenue from tickets sold over the 85 percent threshold. Sen. Brown joined Sen. Blumenthal of Connecticut and Rep. Brian Higgins of New York in writing a letter to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell expressing concerns and urging the NFL to drop the punitive portion or provide waivers to give teams the flexibility to air games without being financially penalized.

### **Protecting Ohio Call Center Jobs**

Companies who send call center jobs abroad don’t just cause their customers frustration, they also hurt our economy by depleting communities of job opportunities. With thousands of jobs at risk, it is critical to protect call center workers in Ohio by deterring companies from shipping these jobs overseas. Sen. Brown called attention to the off-shoring of call center jobs and the need to keep these jobs here in America and in Ohio by joining call center workers in Dayton to outline new legislation he is supporting to help keep call center jobs in the U.S.

The *United States Call Center Worker and Consumer Protection Act of 2012* would require companies to disclose to callers when their calls are transferred abroad, make businesses that move call center jobs overseas ineligible for federal grants or loans, direct the Department of Labor to make a public list of such companies, and require agencies to give preference to U.S. employers that do not appear on this list.

### **Miami Valley Leader Named to Critical Consumer Advisory Board**

Miami Valley Fair Housing Center president and CEO Jim McCarthy has been on the frontline of the battle against foreclosures, working to keep families in their homes and fighting predatory lending practices that hit the Dayton area especially hard. In August, Sen. Brown announced that Mr. McCarthy was named to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s Consumer Advisory



Board. Mr. McCarthy will serve on the 25-person panel that will advise the CFPB on a broad range of consumer financial issue and emerging market trends.

### **Providing Cincinnati Seniors with Safe, Affordable Housing**

Facing rising prescription, food, and energy costs, seniors are often challenged to find affordable housing. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded funding to a Cincinnati neighborhood to redevelop blighted and abandoned property while providing safe, affordable housing for seniors. Sen. Brown announced that Community Builders, Inc. will receive these resources through HUD's Choice Neighborhoods Initiative grant program to build more than 300 housing units in Avondale. This new construction will revitalize Avondale while ensuring that 300 senior households in Cincinnati will have a place to live safely and comfortably.

## **Supporting Social Security, Medicare, and Healthcare**

### **Cracking Down on Drug Store Burglaries**

Drug addicts have shown that they will stop at nothing to feed their addiction—whether by targeting and bribing senior citizens to get access to painkillers or through the outright theft of drugs from pharmacies. Local and federal law enforcement officials should be equipped with the proper tools to crack down on pharmaceutical theft.

Following a July robbery of a drug store in Beavercreek, Sen. Brown called for swift passage of the *Strengthening and Focusing Enforcement to Deter Organized Stealing and Enhance Safety (SAFE DOSES) Act*, legislation that would help crack down on drug robberies and stiffen the penalties for pharmaceutical theft. Not only will this help keep prescription painkillers off our streets and out of the hands of abusers, but it will help protect pharmacies and their employees from being targeted in these often-violent crimes.

### **Improving Outcomes at Dayton's Social Security Administration Office**

It is critical that Ohio's Social Security Administration (SSA) offices are adequately-staffed and that the application process is streamlined to improve service and ensure timely and accurate decisions. Following a *Dayton Daily News* report on delays at the Dayton SSA office, representatives from Sen. Brown's office met with SSA officials to urge the SSA to reduce the backlog and improve service for Miami Valley workers and families. Although the Dayton Social Security Administration (SSA) office has made substantial progress in cutting wait times in 2012, more needs to be done to serve Ohioans efficiently and effectively. Delays in processing claims and appeals stretch families' budgets and can make medical conditions worse.

## **Supporting Southwest Ohio's Students**

### **Southwest Ohio Student Served as Senate Page**

A Cincinnati high school student spent his summer in Washington D.C. as part of the U.S. Senate Page Program. Sen. Brown nominated Christopher Warren, a Walnut Hill High School sophomore for the program. Christopher was one of 30 students from across the United States to serve as a senate page. The Senate Page program is a highly-competitive program that allows

students to go to D.C. and serve as a page for their respective Senators. Christopher was nominated based on his success in the classroom, on the job, and in the athletic arena.

### **Preventing Student Loan Rate Hikes**

Excessive student loan debt means fewer of our young adults will be able to buy a home, start a business, or continue on to graduate school. With nearly half of young college graduates jobless or underemployed, allowing interest rates on federal student loans to double would have been a step backwards for Ohio's students and economy. In late June, Congress passed Sen. Brown's *Stop the Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act* to maintain the current interest rate of 3.4 percent. Without Congressional action, more than 22,000 University of Cincinnati and 10,000 Wright State University students would have been forced to pay significantly more for their Stafford student loans if Congress had not passed the legislation by July 1. The rate on these loans would have doubled from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. According to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, the higher interest rate would have added approximately \$1,000 in loan debt per loan for the average student.



## **Advocating for Minority Communities in Southwest Ohio**

### **Renewing the call to Include Charles P. Young House in the National Park System**

Much of our nation's history comes through Ohio—from the Northwest Territory to the Underground Railroad, from presidents to poets. It is only fitting that the home of the first African American superintendent of a National Park now be part of the very park system that he helped to support and strengthen. In August, Sen. Brown renewed his call to include the Charles P. Young House in the National Park System (NPS). By designating the Charles P. Young House as part of the NPS, the home would receive additional resources for maintenance and upkeep, ensuring the preservation of this historic home.

## **Supporting Southwest Ohio's Agricultural and Rural Economy**

### **Supporting Southwest Ohio Farmers During Summer Drought**

Many Ohio farmers and agricultural-related businesses found their livelihoods threatened by serious drought this summer – a drought that led the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to designate all 88 counties in the state as disaster areas. With more than 98 percent of Ohio experiencing severe or moderate drought conditions, Sen. Brown called on the U.S. House of Representatives to schedule a vote on the Senate-passed bipartisan, five-year farm bill that

provides critical assistance to farmers affected by drought. The bill contains critical risk management and disaster response provisions for Ohio's farmers and agricultural producers.

Sen. Brown helped to craft the Senate farm bill which passed in June and would save taxpayers \$23 billion while creating jobs, boosting rural development, and extending critical disaster programs such as the drought relief assistance Ohio farmers and agricultural businesses depended on after the 2012 drought. The Senate farm bill included an amendment introduced by Sen. Brown that would fund critical USDA Rural Development programs that help Ohio communities update wastewater and sewer infrastructure systems, provide access to capital for Ohio agricultural producers and small businesses, and provide technical assistance to beginning farmers and ranchers.

### **Promoting Renewable Energy**

Businesses and manufacturers in Ohio are leading the way when it comes to the innovative use of solar energy. Sen. Brown was pleased to announce a Rural Energy for American Program (REAP) grant for Winelco, Inc. in West Chester from the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Development agency. These resources will allow Winelco, Inc. to install a 90-kilowatt photo voltaic solar power system that will generate 97,570 kilowatt hours annually.

### **Announcing Federal Resources to Update Farm Equipment in Shelby County**

Federal resources were awarded to a business in Shelby County to purchase a new energy-efficient grain dryer. Sen. Brown announced that a Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Grant of \$19,281 has been awarded to Elsass Farms, Inc. from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Development agency. The grant will allow Elsass Farms, Inc. to replace an old grain dryer with a new energy-efficient model, saving 84,569 kilowatt hours annually. A new grain dryer will help Elsass Farms save on its energy costs and make the necessary updates to maintain modern, energy-efficient operations.

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# Legislation and Issues

The following pages provide an overview of Sen. Brown's major legislative actions in 2012.

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## Jobs and the Economy

### Made in Ohio: Creating and Retaining Manufacturing Jobs

Manufacturing accounts for nearly 12 percent of the \$14 trillion U.S. economy and has broad positive effects for the entire economy. On average, manufacturing positions pay 20 percent more than service jobs. Each manufacturing job supports four to five other jobs in the economy, and while employment in manufacturing has steadily declined, one in six private sector jobs is still in or directly tied to manufacturing.

Sen. Brown worked diligently in 2012 to create and retain Ohio's valuable manufacturing jobs. From the auto rescue, to meetings with President Barack Obama, to legislation, and advocacy with the private sector, Sen. Brown's efforts are beginning to yield results. The manufacturing sector has slowly added jobs each month since January 2010, reversing the trend of the previous decade. Some 500,000 manufacturing jobs have been added over the past two years.

### Continued Job Growth Resulting From the Auto Rescue

Sen. Brown was a staunch advocate for the auto industry rescue in 2009, and since then, General Motors and Chrysler—as well as Ford, Honda, and numerous parts suppliers—have added new jobs and expanded investments at their plants across Ohio. For instance, General Motors announced in August that it plans to invest an additional \$220 million in its Lordstown and Parma plants to build the next-generation Chevy Cruze. More than 850,000 Ohio jobs are tied to the automotive sector.



### Investing in a National Manufacturing Strategy

As a nation, the United States has been without a focused strategy on maintaining a strong manufacturing base and growing this sector. Partially as a result of this oversight, the manufacturing sector lost more than 5 million jobs in the 2000s—approximately one-third of its workforce. To address this deficiency, Sen. Brown and Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL) introduced the *National Manufacturing Strategy Act* to propel the public and private sectors towards a renewed focus on manufacturing job growth.

## **Industry Partnerships to Train Workers for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jobs**

In 2007, Sen. Brown and Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME) were the first members of Congress to highlight the need to push the federal workforce training system in the direction of sector and industry partnerships. They came to this conclusion because too many employers talked about the struggle to find skilled workers, and too many workers who said there were no jobs available.

Their *Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success* (SECTORS) Act addresses the disparity between high unemployment rates and a shortage of skilled workers for many emerging industries. Despite Ohio's unemployment rate hovering below 7 percent, there is still demand in today's labor market for skilled workers. The *SECTORS Act* would organize stakeholders connected to a regional industry—multiple firms, unions, education and training providers, and local workforce and education system administrators—to develop plans for growing that industry.

## **Encouraging Manufacturers to Bring Jobs Home to Ohio and the U.S.**

A little-known provision in our tax code allows businesses to deduct from their taxes the cost of shipping jobs overseas. To combat this backwards practice that encourages outsourcing, Sen. Brown cosponsored the *Bring Jobs Home Act*, legislation that would establish a tax incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to the United States, while ending tax loopholes for companies that outsource jobs to foreign countries.

## **Building a National Network for Manufacturing Innovation**

Since 2007, Sen. Brown has listened to Ohio manufacturers at more than 200 roundtables in all of Ohio's 88 counties. One lesson he has learned is the value of collaboration between the private sector, universities, federal labs, and small and medium-sized manufacturers. With Ohio's strong anchor institutions – like NASA Glenn, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and the Battelle Memorial Institute – combined with world-class engineering schools and iconic manufacturers like GE, Boeing, Airbus, and Honda among others, Ohio is poised to capitalize on its innovative edge and attract greater investment and job creation.



To advance this collaboration, Sen. Brown has proposed creating a “National Network for Manufacturing Innovation,” which would leverage federal resources with the private sector to accelerate the development of new manufacturing technologies and processes. In August, Sen. Brown announced the award of \$30 million to create a pilot “National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute” (NAMII) that will be based in Youngstown. The NAMII is a collaboration between industries in Ohio and Pennsylvania, along with Case Western Reserve University, Youngstown State University, Lorain Community College, the University of Akron, Carnegie Mellon University and several manufacturers to accelerate the development of “3-D printing” for defense-related products.



## **Making Clean Energy Products in America**

In August, American wind power reached a new milestone of 50 gigawatts of electric generating capacity, the equivalent of powering nearly 13 million American homes. According to the American Wind Energy Association, this equals the generating power of 44 coal-fired power plants, while emitting far less carbon dioxide and conserving 30 billion gallons of water each year.

Ohio manufacturers have taken advantage of the Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credit to help qualified employers retool for clean energy manufacturing. This tax credit, also known as Section 48(C), supported up to \$2.3 billion in tax credits for investments in clean energy manufacturing plants, including several in Ohio.

Sen. Brown worked with the Great Lakes WIND Network (GLWN), the Blue-Green Alliance, and the private sector to introduce legislation to extend this effort to incentivize new manufacturing jobs. The *Security in Energy and Manufacturing (SEAM) Act* would maintain the tax credit to spur job creation. Combined with the Production Tax Credit, which is critical to continuing the growth of the domestic supply chain for clean energy, these tax credits are working and creating 21<sup>st</sup>-century clean energy jobs in Ohio.

## **Growing Small Business**

### **Celebrating a Record Year of Small Business Administration Lending in Ohio**

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and access to capital is vital for them. In Fiscal Year 2011, the Small Business Administration (SBA) approved a record 3,228 loans amounting to nearly \$760 million for Ohio small businesses. In Fiscal Years 2009-2011, the Northern District of the SBA saw more than a 65 percent increase in the volume of SBA loans to area small businesses.

To aid these efforts, Sen. Brown was instrumental in passing the *Small Business Jobs and Credit Act*, which expanded the SBA provisions in the Recovery Act that helped small business owners access more private capital. Sen. Brown also fought for increased loan limits in the SBA's most popular loan programs. Endorsed by the Chamber of Commerce and National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB), the *Small Business Jobs and Credit Act* also provided \$55 million to the Ohio Department of Development under the State Small Business Credit Initiative.

Since 2009, Sen. Brown's office has conducted more than 30 small business workshops throughout Ohio. These workshops provided Ohio small businesses with important information on SBA loan programs, resources to help increase export sales, tax incentives to help invest and hire workers, and federal procurement resources.

### **Growing and Incubating New Small Businesses Across Ohio**

Business incubators help to reduce the risks entrepreneurs face, provide critical resources for young companies in need, and help create jobs in Ohio. Sen. Brown's *Business Incubator Promotion Act* would make more communities in Ohio eligible to receive funds that support business incubators through the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). Incubator

support has already created hundreds of thousands of jobs by providing start-up companies with services that help turn innovative ideas into viable businesses.

Sen. Brown also announced a new partnership between the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the U.S. Black Chamber, Inc. This alliance is aimed at connecting African-American entrepreneurs with the resources needed to grow their businesses and help create new jobs – especially in historically underserved communities. Additionally, Sen. Brown launched a new webpage designed specifically to help entrepreneurs in underserved communities connect with the SBA to help entrepreneurs transform their ideas into the next successful small businesses.

### **Helping Ohio's Small Businesses to Increase Exports**

It is critical that more Ohio small businesses become engaged in the global economy, and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has programs that can be leveraged to help small businesses expand into new markets and hire workers. As a member of the President's Export Council, Sen. Brown has been a tireless advocate on behalf of Ohio companies seeking to grow their exports and reach new markets.

Sen. Brown's office has held multiple seminars throughout the state to help connect Ohio businesses with federal resources to increase their export sales. Sen. Brown also led the charge in the Senate to reauthorize the Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank. More than 140 Ohio businesses have received financing through the Export-Import Bank since 2009 at no cost to U.S. taxpayers. In May, the Senate approved the reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank and President Obama later signed the bill into law.

### **Protecting Workers and Industries Against Unfair Trade**



Sen. Brown consistently stands up for workers and manufacturers affected by countries that unfairly subsidize their industries to undermine U.S. manufacturers. He believes that strong enforcement of our trade laws and creating a level playing field are critical to protecting Ohio jobs. In 2012, Sen. Brown continued to lead the Senate in calling for a tough trade policy that holds trading partners accountable to the rules and prevents a “race to the bottom” on labor, environmental, and food and drug safety standards.

### **Holding China Accountable**

In 2011, after four years of challenging presidents of both parties, Sen. Brown authored and successfully passed through the Senate the *Currency Exchange and Oversight Reform Act*, bipartisan legislation to crackdown on China's currency manipulation. Currency manipulation is an illegal trade practice in which the Chinese government intentionally devalues its own currency against the United States dollar. This results in artificially expensive American imports to China, and artificially cheap Chinese imports to the United States. Throughout 2012, Sen. Brown kept up pressure on the Republican-controlled House of Representatives to vote on and pass this critical bill.

## **Buying American-Made Goods**

Sen. Brown believes that whenever possible, taxpayer dollars spent by the federal government should be on Made-in-America goods. He has pushed for stronger “Buy America” and accountability policies on multiple fronts.

## **Requiring the Defense Department to Purchase American Steel for Armor Plate**

Sen. Brown led a successful Senate effort to require the Defense Department to purchase 100 percent American-made steel for armor plate. By advancing legislation, the *United States Steel and Security Act of 2012*, and pushing the Administration to make this decision on its own, Sen. Brown’s efforts were realized in July when the Defense Department proposed a new rule requiring steel purchased by the military be 100 percent domestically produced.

## **Buying American-Made Iron and Steel for Highway and Transportation Projects**

Sen. Brown successfully secured language in the new transportation law to improve transparency and reporting of the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Buy America preferences and to close the loophole that has allowed foreign iron and steel for highways and bridges to be purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars.

## **Limiting Tax Credits to American-Made Solar Panels**

China will stop at nothing to support key, growing industries, like solar panels. In addition to getting tough with trade enforcement, Sen. Brown is working to ensure that taxpayer dollars—through any federal tax credits—are used to buy American-made solar panels. Sen. Brown introduced legislation that would bar Chinese-made solar panels from qualifying for the 30 percent tax credit that U.S. individuals and businesses receive for purchasing and installing solar panels in their homes and businesses. Sen. Brown’s efforts come as the amount of new solar wattage installed in the U.S. has grown more than 70 percent per year since 2008, yet the vast majority of those solar panels have been made in China and have undercut U.S. producers and jobs.

## **Giving Preference to American-Made Textiles and Apparel**



Sen. Brown passed through the Senate legislation requiring American flags bought by the government be 100 percent made-in-America, like those made by Annin & Co. in Coshocton. Additionally, following reports that the 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony uniforms for American athletes had been manufactured in China, Sen. Brown secured a commitment from the CEO of the U.S. Olympic Committee to make uniforms for the 2014 Olympics in the United States. Sen. Brown has also introduced legislation requiring federal agencies to give preference to 100 percent made-in-America apparel.

### **Keeping Call Center Jobs in the U.S.**

Ohio has more than 198,000 call center jobs. Sen. Brown cosponsored the *U.S. Call Center Worker and Consumer Protection Act*, which could help keep jobs in the U.S. by requiring companies to notify consumers that their calls are being transferred abroad. The bill would also make businesses that move call center jobs overseas ineligible for federal grants or loans.

### **Putting American Interests First**

Sen. Brown believes that our trade policy has not promoted our economic interests. He has led the fight to make trade enforcement a matter of practice—by requiring the government to take action when China or any trade partner does not follow the rules.

### **Defending Ohio at the International Trade Commission**

In 2012, Sen. Brown supported several Ohio producers and workers by testifying before the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) on behalf of steel wheel makers in Akron and steel bearings producers in Canton and urging the ITC to maintain duties on unfairly-subsidized imports of these items. He has also been a strong advocate for American workers and businesses in similar cases before the ITC. The ITC's ruling in a December 2009 case led to the application of duties on imports to support domestic producers of steel pipe like V&M Star and Wheatland Tube in Warren. By addressing illegal Chinese trade practices, this decision helped increase demand for domestic production. It also played a positive factor in V&M Star's decision to build a new, \$650 million seamless pipe mill in Youngstown, bringing hundreds of jobs along with it.

### **A Bad Trade Ruling and a Swift Bipartisan Fix**

In late 2011, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit ruled that the Commerce Department did not have the legal authority to impose countervailing duties (CVDs) on subsidized imports from countries including China and Vietnam. Were this ruling to become final, it would have had severe economic and employment effects on thousands of workers employed by more than 80 companies in as many as 38 states, including more than a dozen Ohio companies in industries as diverse as paper, steel, tires, aluminum, and magnets.

In early 2012, Sen. Brown—along with fellow Ohio Senator, Republican Rob Portman—introduced legislation that would allow these duties to be maintained. The bill was passed by Congress in March and signed into law, preserving a critical trade enforcement tool.

In addition to working together to maintain the ability of the Commerce Department to apply countervailing duties to unfairly-subsidized foreign imports, Sens. Brown and Portman have worked together to defend several Ohio companies from unfair trade. Specifically, both Ohio Senators have worked together to:

- Assist Ohio candle producers in Leesburg, Norwich, and Cincinnati in upholding Antidumping orders on unfair Chinese imports;
- Defend Ohio's manufacturers of hot-rolled steel in Cleveland and Middletown from Brazil, Japan, and Russia;
- Strengthen enforcement of U.S. trade law by accounting for export taxes in Chinese Antidumping investigations to help companies in Beverly;

- Uphold Antidumping orders on urea from Russia and Ukraine to help Lima urea manufacturers;
- Defend diamond saw blade manufacturers in Elyria from dumped imports from China;
- Urge government action to investigate illegal imports of vanadium pentoxide from Russia to help producers in Cambridge;
- Support Ohio glassware manufacturers in Toledo and Lancaster in Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations;
- Enforce existing antidumping orders against unfairly trade imports of lined paper school supplies from China to protect manufacturers in Kettering.

## **Holding Russia Accountable at the WTO**

In July, Russia formally joined the World Trade Organization (WTO). In order for U.S. companies to benefit from Russia's membership, Congress must grant Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) to Russia. Yet a decade of experience with China's failure to abide by all of its WTO commitments has provided ample evidence that we must strengthen enforcement.

Sen. Brown believes that Ohio workers, farmers, ranchers and producers should have confidence that, if a trade deal is signed, it will actually be enforced. That's why he introduced the *Russian World Trade Organization Commitments Verification Act of 2012*, which would ensure that Russia upholds its trade promises. The legislation extending PNTR to Russia includes several enforcement measures based on Sen. Brown's bill, including a requirement that the U.S. Trade Representative monitor Russia's compliance with its WTO obligations, the establishment of an annual report on the United States' actions to promote compliance, and the creation of a formal and public process for business and workers to weigh in on Russia's progress. Russia PNTR passed the Senate in early December.

## **A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Trade Agreement**

Sen. Brown has outlined new trade negotiating objectives to update our trade agreements from the mistakes of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). His *21<sup>st</sup> Century Trade Agreements and Market Access Act* is a new way forward for trade deals that strengthen labor rights, environmental, health, and food safety standards.

## **Promoting Ohio Exports**

As a member of the President's Export Council, Sen. Brown has been a tireless advocate on behalf of Ohio companies seeking to grow their exports and reach new markets. In 2011, Sen. Brown organized the Ohio Export Advisory Group, which has served as a base for connecting Ohio companies with high level trade officials, including Undersecretary of Commerce Francisco Sanchez and Ambassador Ron Kirk, the U.S. Trade Representative.



Sen. Brown was also a leader in reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank ("Ex-Im"), which was delayed by House Republicans in May, jeopardizing funds before a May 31 lapse in authority.



Since it was first authorized by Congress nearly 70 years ago, the Bank's authority has never lapsed. It has typically been reauthorized in five-year periods with incremental increases in its lending cap.

According to the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), Ex-Im supports 290,000 export-related American jobs, and more than 85 percent of Ex-Im transactions supported small businesses last year.

## **Labor and Workforce: Supporting Workers in a Tough Economy**

Working families are the backbone of our economy and the economic downturn has meant difficult times for Ohio's workers. Too many parents today must juggle one, two, or even three jobs while raising their children, staying involved in their community and place of worship, or taking care of an elderly relative. Families are less secure, median wages have remained stagnant, and retirement is increasingly difficult to plan. In 2012, Sen. Brown kept up the fight for equal and fair pay, and worked to ensure that Ohioans can earn a living wage.

### **Equal Pay for Equal Work**

Pay discrimination against women continues to be an issue in many workplace sectors. While Congress passed the *Equal Pay Act* in 1963, women today in Ohio only earn about 85 cents for every dollar earned by men. Sen. Brown cosponsored the *Paycheck Fairness Act*, which would provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination by enhancing enforcement of equal pay requirements. Sen. Brown also supported the *Fair Pay Act of 2011*, which would prohibit wage discrimination based on sex, race, or national origin.

### **Raising the Minimum Wage**

So that all Ohioans can earn a living wage, Sen. Brown supports raising the minimum wage from the current \$7.25 an hour and is in favor of increasing the current \$2.13 minimum hourly wage for tipped workers so that it equals 70 percent of the full minimum wage. Boosting the minimum wage not only helps working families pay bills and provide for basic necessities, but can benefit the American economy. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, every \$1 increase for a minimum wage worker translates into \$2,800 spent by the worker's household in the following year.

### **Giving Advance Notice for Layoffs**

When employers have no choice but to lay off workers, it is critical that employees are given advance notice—especially in the case of a mass layoff or plant closing. Congress passed the *Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act* in 1988 to give workers and communities 60 days advance notice to adjust to an impending “plant closing” or “mass layoff.”

However, the *WARN Act's* effectiveness has been undermined by existing loopholes and weak enforcement. According to a 2003 report, the *WARN Act* only covers 24 percent of all layoffs. A series of investigations by the Toledo Blade in 2007 revealed that the law does not cover enough layoffs, and that many employers fail to comply with the law.

Sen. Brown's *Federal Oversight, Reform, and Enforcement of the WARN* (FOREWARN) Act would strengthen enforcement of and close loopholes in the current law. The *FOREWARN Act* would give the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) the authority to enforce the *WARN Act*, and would increase penalties for violation to double back pay.

### **Assisting Unemployed Ohio Workers**

Unemployment insurance (UI) protects Ohioans and their families when their jobs are eliminated, often through no fault of their own. Unemployment insurance allows jobless Ohioans to put food on the table, pay the rent or mortgage, and tend to basic health needs. To ensure the long-term solvency of the UI program, Sen. Brown was an original cosponsor of the *Unemployment Insurance Solvency Act*. This bill would provide an immediate solution to ensuring the continuation of unemployment benefits to the jobless, prevent a tax increase on local employers, and encourage long-term state fiscal responsibility.

Sen. Brown also supports giving unemployed workers a fair shot in the job market. He is an original sponsor of *The Fair Employment Opportunity Act*, which would outlaw hiring discrimination based on one's employment status. Though employers have the right to staff according to their needs, preemptive discrimination against the jobless not only harms those most in need of employment, but can also arbitrarily deny employers with workers who are eager to contribute to the economy.

### **Cracking Down on Payroll Fraud**

Tens of thousands of employers misclassify their employees as independent contractors. As a result, these workers are not eligible for benefits such as minimum wage, overtime, unemployment insurance, and workers' compensation. To address this unfair practice, Sen. Brown introduced the *Payroll Fraud Prevention Act*, which would prevent payroll fraud by employers that misclassify their workers as independent contractors and would provide workers with the protections they are entitled to and the benefits they have earned.

### **Protecting Worker Health and Safety**

Sen. Brown has been a leader in holding mining companies accountable for repeated safety violations. Just over two years ago, our nation experienced the deadliest mine explosion in 40 years when 29 individuals lost their lives in the Upper Big Branch Mine explosion. Following the tragic event, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) reported that the explosion was caused by hazardous conditions that could have been prevented. Sen. Brown called for an expedited review of new regulations proposed by MSHA to strengthen the mine safety enforcement system.

### **Preventing Layoffs through Work-Sharing and Short-Time Compensation**

Sen. Brown was an original cosponsor of the *Layoff Prevention Act*, legislation that would expand flexibility for Ohio employers and prevent layoffs. By utilizing short-time compensation (STC), employers could reduce all employees' hours by a percentage, rather than laying off a portion of their workforce. Workers would then be compensated for lost wages through existing unemployment insurance programs. STC programs prevent business disruption and skill erosion by allowing businesses to keep employees on the job with reduced hours.

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# Agriculture & Rural Development

As Ohio's first Senator to serve on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry in more than 40 years, Sen. Brown is honored to represent our state's farmers and rural communities. With a drought affecting farmers throughout Ohio and the nation, and with the farm bill reauthorization process in full swing, 2012 was a busy and important year in determining the policy that will guide food production, agriculture, and rural communities for the next five years.

With one in seven Ohio jobs connected to food and agriculture, Sen. Brown is fighting to keep Ohio's largest industry strong. He is working for Ohio's family farmers by championing major reforms to the farm safety-net, new opportunities for direct marketing of local food, and better crop insurance policies.

In 2012, Sen. Brown was a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and the Food and Drug Administration. Through this subcommittee, he worked to promote investments and policies that advance rural economic development and job creation in the small towns and agricultural communities that are all too often overlooked and underserved.

## Creating and Fighting to Pass a Comprehensive Farm Bill

With national attention tuned to the budget, debt, and deficit, the House and Senate Agriculture Committees began bipartisan, bicameral work on a five-year farm bill that would save taxpayer dollars and make a fair contribution towards improving the nation's fiscal health.

In January, the Senate began writing a new farm bill that was responsive to farmers' needs while saving taxpayer dollars. The Committee maintained the bipartisan-bicameral framework and wrote a five-year farm bill that would save \$23 billion over 10 years.

The Senate Agriculture Committee, in April, considered and passed the bipartisan *Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2012* by a vote of 16 to 5. During this process, six of the thirteen amendments Sen. Brown contributed were accepted in some form, while a seventh served as the basis for a rural development amendment successfully offered on the Senate floor.



Following receipt of a bipartisan letter from Sen. Brown and 43 members of the Senate urging swift consideration of a farm bill, the Farm Bill was brought up for full Senate consideration and passed the Senate in June with broad bipartisan support and a vote of 64 to 35.

The House Agriculture Committee considered a farm bill in May, but the full House of Representatives did not consider a farm bill during the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress. The 2008 farm bill

expired in September. The end-of-year tax-package passed and signed into law on January 1, 2013 included a nine-month extension of some of the 2008 farm bill provisions, though it failed to include the significant reforms in the Senate-passed version of the 2012 farm bill, disaster assistance for farmers who suffered from severe drought during 2012 crop year or funding for more than thirty programs related to renewable energy, conservation and beginning farmers.

Congress will begin efforts to rewrite and reauthorize the farm bill anew in January 2013.

### **Advancing Agriculture and Opportunities for Farmers**

Throughout 2011—leading up to the 2012 Farm Bill consideration—Sen. Brown visited farms and rural areas around Ohio gathering input from Ohio farmers and citizens of rural communities on his *Grown in Ohio* listening tour. These ideas guided Sen. Brown’s legislative proposals for the 2012 Farm Bill. Making stops in Chesterland, Chillicothe, New Philadelphia, Custar, Cleveland, and Columbus, Sen. Brown met with farmers, entrepreneurs, and community leaders to discuss topics including energy development in Appalachia, how to improve farmers’ risk management tools, and how to increase production and consumption of locally grown food.



The Senate-passed, bipartisan farm bill represents the most significant reform in agriculture policy in decades. Specifically, the bill:

- **Eliminates Direct Payments to Farmers and Replaces them With Programs More Responsive to Taxpayers and Farmers**

The bill eliminates direct payments, which are made to farmers regardless of losses or even if a crop is planted, along with two other farm subsidy programs, saving taxpayers \$15 billion.

- **Stops Paying Farmers for Crops They Are Not Growing**

In the past, people received payments based on what crops were growing on their land as far back as the 1980s. The Senate-passed farm bill would support farmers only for crops they have actually planted and only when they suffer substantial losses through events beyond their control.

- **Limits Payments**

The bill bars any single person from receiving more than \$50,000 per year in farm payments. This is less than half the amount individuals can currently receive.

- **Ends Farm Payments to Millionaires**

The bill establishes strict new limits preventing any person with an adjusted gross income of more than \$750,000 from receiving farm program payments.

At *Grown in Ohio* listening sessions, Ohioans stressed the need to improve farm safety net programs so they are simple and efficient, providing farmers with support only when they need it most. In response, Sen. Brown worked closely with Ohio farmers to develop a policy proposal that provides farmers the risk management tools they need while maintaining participants’ reliance on private crop insurance. The product of this collaboration was the Aggregate Risk and

Revenue Management (ARRM), which Sen. Brown introduced with Sens. John Thune (R-SD), Dick Durbin (D-IL), and Dick Lugar (R-IN) in September.

Saving nearly \$20 billion in taxpayer dollars, ARRM became the foundation for negotiations over what shape a streamlined farm safety net should take and was ultimately included in the Senate farm bill in modified form as the Ag Risk Coverage (ARC) program.

Under the ARC program, farmers will receive access to a single, risk-based coverage program that complements crop insurance to protect against both price and yield losses. Farmers will make a one-time choice between coverage at the individual farm level or at the county level. Payments to farmers will be available only when actual losses are experienced from a benchmark revenue calculated using an average of the previous five crop years. Farmers can only receive payments for acres that are actually planted, and only when there is a drop in price or yields. In order to be eligible for ARC, all farmers must agree to comply with conservation and wetlands requirements.

### **Assisting Farmers with Disaster Assistance and Risk Management**

Extreme weather events in 2012 underscored the critical need for the disaster assistance and risk management tools included in the Senate-passed farm bill. With more than 80 percent of the country facing abnormally dry and drought conditions, farmers are faced with risks unlike those found in any other profession. A few days of bad weather or volatile market conditions can threaten the livelihood of America's farmers, ranchers, and rural small business owners. Responding to the concerns of farmers across Ohio and the nation, the 2012 farm bill strengthens and improves coverage for all commodities and underserved crops like fruit and vegetables without making budget cuts to crop insurance; it also strengthens and improves risk management tools and supports farmers and small business owners who have suffered disasters beyond their control. Specifically, the bill does the following to help farmers manage risk and respond to disaster:

- **Creates the Supplemental Coverage Option**

The Supplemental Coverage Option allows producers to purchase additional coverage on an area yield and loss basis. The coverage option establishes a trigger on coverage offered only if losses exceed 21 percent for producers enrolled in ARC and 10 percent for all others.

- **Strengthens and Reinstates Livestock Disaster Programs for 2012**

The livestock disaster provisions originally enacted in the 2008 farm bill expired in 2011, leaving producers without disaster assistance for the current crop year. The Senate-passed farm bill strengthens these programs and makes them retroactive to address the drought of 2012. Livestock disaster programs are critical as farmers and ranchers experience losses in livestock and grazing land due to extreme heat, drought, and fire. The Senate-passed farm bill provides permanent funding and authority for the Livestock Disaster Programs, including: the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP), and the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), which was enhanced by increasing payment rates and streamlining assistance.



## Building New Markets for American Agriculture

Despite economic challenges nationwide, the farm economy has remained strong as U.S. production capacity continues to increase and agricultural exports are at record levels. Identifying new markets for American agricultural products and new revenue streams for farmers is essential to continuing this record of success. From renewable energy to export markets and local foods, Sen. Brown has been working to expand opportunities for all Ohio farmers.

## Powering Farm-Based Renewable Energy

Ohio farmers and rural communities are integral to building, growing, and implementing the fuels and technologies that will power the clean-energy economy—and it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for farmers to diversify, secure new markets, and create new revenue streams.

Sen. Brown is working to develop farm-based renewable energy. Although the energy programs created in the 2002 and 2007 farm bills have been important drivers of innovation and adoption of new technologies, they expired in September 2012. Without a designated source of future years funding, Sen. Brown put significant time and focus into building a bipartisan coalition of Agriculture Committee members committed funding key farm bill energy programs.

In March, Sen. Brown cosponsored *the Rural Energy Investment Act* to extend, modify, and fund existing farm bill energy programs. Throughout the Committee process, Sen. Brown worked with a bi-partisan coalition of eleven Agriculture Committee Senators to write, fund, introduce, and pass with the energy amendment that will fund most existing farm bill energy programs with some minor modifications designed to make the programs more effective and efficient.

## Developing a Biobased Products Industry

The emerging biobased industry links two of Ohio's strongest sectors—agriculture and manufacturing—to make new products such as soy-based greases, ink, and toner to car seats and plastic substitutes. Interest in the biobased products industry gathered steam in 2011 when, at Sen. Brown's invitation, Denny Hall, the assistant director of the Ohio BioProducts Innovation Center (OBIC) and a sixth generation farmer testified before the Senate Agriculture Committee. Following this hearing, USDA Sec. Tom Vilsack visited the Ohio State University to learn how the biobased product industry is creating jobs and joined Sen. Brown in holding a *Grown in Ohio* listening session focused on the challenges Ohio biobased companies face as they get started and grow.



In March, Sen. Brown joined a group of colleagues to introduce a “Grow it Here; Make it Here” Biobased Manufacturing Initiative to help create jobs and boost the biobased products industry. Later that month, Sen. Brown and Agriculture Secretary Vilsack visited Cleveland's Sherwin-

Williams to highlight the new jobs and potential that could come from linking manufacturing and agriculture.

The components of the initiative are explained, below, and were incorporated into the *Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2012*:

- **Strengthens the Biopreferred Program**, which certifies and labels products so consumers can choose to purchase goods made of agriculture materials, and provides a preference for these products for government purchases.
- **Spurs the commercialization of new agricultural innovations** by streamlining and focusing resources to help new bio-based projects move from the development to the commercialization phase, also known as the "valley of death" since far too many good ideas do not make it out of this phase.
- **Increases access to capital for bio-based manufacturers** by expanding the USDA's Biorefinery Loan Guarantee Program, so bio-based manufacturers have access to loans to help finance new or existing operations.

## **Bolstering Production and Consumption of Ohio-Grown Foods**

Local and regional agriculture is a major economic driver in the rural economy. For each dollar that consumers spend on food, less than \$0.16 returns to the farmer. Supporting opportunities for farmers to sell their products directly to consumers or through shorter local supply chains means that more of a consumer's dollar stays – in Ohio – primarily on the farm, where it is invested in local jobs and supplies and helps the local economy.

A recent study shows that if Northeast Ohio's residents and businesses spent 25 percent of their food dollars on local farms and businesses, 27,500 jobs could be created while increasing economic output by \$4.2 billion and generating \$126 million in local and state taxes. By supporting our state's family farms we can expand farming businesses, create rural jobs, and invest in local and regional food economies.

That is why Sen. Brown introduced the *Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act*. This legislation, designed to be a part of the farm bill, is a comprehensive package of reforms that would help Ohio farmers and ranchers by addressing production, aggregation, marketing and distribution needs. The bill would also prioritize consumer access to healthy, fresh food with support for technology and direct sales.

In August, Sen. Brown hosted an all-day forum entitled Grown in Ohio: Making the Local Food Connection. The conference, held in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Ohio State University Extension, featured a keynote address from Deputy Secretary of Agriculture that included an announcement that Ohio has signed the first cooperative agreement with the Food Safety Inspection Service that will allow State-inspected meat to be shipped across state lines.

Key provisions of the *Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act* were included in the *Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2012*. The bill also:

- **Expands Opportunities for Local and Regional Food Systems**

The bill strengthens support for farmers' markets and expands authority to support innovative local food enterprises like food hubs.

- **Increases Access and Affordability of Healthy Food Options**

In both urban and rural low-income communities, many people lack reasonable access to nutritious and affordable food. The bill authorizes the Healthy Food Financing Initiative to administer loans and grants to improve access to healthy foods in these "food deserts."



- **Promotes Better Health for School Children**

The bill continues the successful Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Program, which provides fresh fruits and vegetables to elementary school children throughout the school day in school districts with a high proportion of low-income students. It also continues the Department of Defense Fresh Program, which distributes fruits and vegetables to schools and service institutions, and continues to allow the Agriculture Marketing Service to conduct pilots to allow states to source locally-grown produce.

## **Creating Opportunities for Beginning Farmers**

With the average age of farmers at 57, one of the most pressing challenges in agriculture is preparing the next generation of farmers and ranchers to meet the increasing world-demand for food. Making sure agriculture is profitable is an essential component of recruiting and retaining a new generation of farmers and ranchers.

Because Sen. Brown puts high priority on helping beginning farmers and ranchers continue, start, and build family farming and ranching operations, he cosponsored the *Beginning Farmer and Rancher Opportunity Act* which extends, improves and strengthens USDA's work to help beginning farmers obtain education and training, necessary financial resources and credit, assistance for practicing sound conservation in their operations, and adequate income insurance and risk management. The *Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act* includes several key provisions from the *Beginning Farmer and Rancher Opportunity Act* as well as many others to support beginning farmers.

## **Supporting Agricultural Research**

Modern agriculture is faced with multiple challenges. By 2050, agricultural production must double in order to feed the global population. Furthermore, investment in agricultural research

has been the foundation for our country's agricultural success. That is why Sen. Brown maintains a steady drumbeat of support for agricultural research.

Sen. Brown supported the *Charitable Agricultural Research Act*, which creates agricultural research organizations to facilitate private sector contributions to agricultural research. This bill was included in the *Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2012*. He also co-sponsored the bipartisan *Veterinary Services Improvement Act*, which was included in the Senate 2012 farm bill, to address the shortage of veterinarians in rural agricultural areas by supporting veterinary education and rural recruitment.

## Building Strong, Vibrant Rural Communities



Strong rural communities are essential to Ohio's economic prosperity and serve as a barometer for our broader economy's health. By closing the skills gap, rebuilding our infrastructure, and expanding agriculture's role in the clean energy economy, we can strengthen rural Ohio's competitiveness in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. That is why, as Chair of the Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Job Creation, Rural Economic Development and Renewable Energy, Sen. Brown remains committed to building strong, vibrant towns and rural communities in Ohio. In recognition of his leadership, in August Sen. Brown was named "Rural Champion of the Year" by a leading national rural organization, the Rural Community Assistance Partnership.

## Creating Jobs and Economic Prosperity in Rural Ohio and the 2012 Farm Bill

More than half of Ohio's 88 counties are designated as "rural" by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Sen. Brown recognizes that rural America faces great economic challenges. That is why Sen. Brown is working to grow our state's economy by promoting our strengths and rebuilding the middle class to connect Ohio's strengths, rebalance the economy, replace the hundreds of thousands of Ohio jobs that have been lost, and rebuild our middle class.

As Chair of the Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Job Creation, Rural Economic Development and Renewable Energy, Sen. Brown worked to rewrite and reform USDA-rural development programs that no longer serve rural Ohioans or our nation's taxpayers. Sen. Brown knows that in order for rural America to compete in the global economy, expansion of broadband service is essential. That is why in April he introduced the *Connecting Rural America Act*. The bill would reauthorize the USDA's Broadband Loan Program through 2017 while modifying the program so it better serves communities that are small in size, remotely located, and high in poverty. The bill was included in the 2012 Farm Bill.

While Sen. Brown strongly supported the final product of the Agriculture Committee's work to improve the rural development provisions of the *Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2012*, he was disappointed that no mandatory funding was allotted for these important programs.

Determined to ensure the final version of the farm bill that passed the Senate included funding for key rural development programs, Sen. Brown authored and passed an amendment to garner support for more than 185 organizations including: National Association of Counties, National Association of Development Organizations, Farmers Union, Farmers Market Coalition, National Rural Water Association, National Young Farmers Association, Association of Towns and Townships, National Association of RC&Ds, National League of Cities, National Rural Housing Coalition, Rural Community Assistance Partnership, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Center for Rural Affairs, American Public Works Association, and League of Rural Voters.

The amendment was considered by the full Senate and passed on a vote of 55-44. The amendment ensured resources for the:

- **Value-Added Producer Grant Program (VAPG)**, which provides working capital and business development funds for on-farm and local processing and retail agriculture.
- **Rural Micro-entrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP)**, which provides financial assistance to businesses with fewer than 10 full-time employees in rural areas.
- **Water/Wastewater Backlog**, which provides technical and financial assistance for water and wastewater infrastructure upgrades in small towns and communities in rural areas.
- **Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP)**, which provides competitively awarded funding through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) for education, extension, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives directed at helping beginning farmers and ranchers of all types.

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# Defense, Military, and Homeland Security

Sen. Brown is working to promote the safety and security of our state and our nation as well as to ensure the readiness of the United States military.

## Passing a Comprehensive *National Defense Authorization Act*

In late December, the *National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA) cleared the House and Senate and was signed into law by President Obama. The NDAA:

- Keeps jobs at the Lima Tank Plant through continued investment in the M1A2 Abrams tank program. The bill included funds for Abrams tank procurement and modernization, which combined with funding from other sources, will ensure that the Lima plant can continue to operate at its current levels through Fiscal Year 2013.
- Protects jobs at the Mansfield Air National Guard Base (ANGB) and Youngstown Air Reserve Station (YARS) because of a “strategic pause” that will temporarily halt proposed changes to the C-27J program at the Mansfield ANGB and to the C-130 planes and personnel at YARS.
- Creates defense jobs across Ohio thanks to an amendment Sen. Brown authored that will expand economic development and create jobs in Licking County. The Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority will reestablish its designation as a Small Business Administration (SBA) HUBZone through 2015. The designation gives small businesses in the area—or those that employ residents of the area—preferential access to federal procurement opportunities in order to encourage economic development and job creation in the region.
- Includes additional funding for the American Centrifuge Plant in Piketon that could create 4,000 jobs in Southern Ohio.

## Preventing Future Defense Cuts



We can reduce our nation’s deficit while protecting our military and our nation. In February, Sen. Brown wrote a letter to Gov. Kasich regarding the importance of developing a state-wide approach to possible future defense cuts, including any Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commissions. The letter highlighted the importance of speaking with one voice and working together with all of Ohio’s defense related sites, businesses, industries, and workforce.

In April, Sens. Brown and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) led 26 Senators in sending a letter to U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Secretary Leon Panetta urging the DoD to implement sourcing and workforce management laws and to use civilian personnel where possible as opposed to

awarding more costly private contracts. The Senators urged DoD to adhere to insourcing laws and warned against using contract personnel simply in place of civilian employees.

## Calling for Tougher Sanctions

As Iran becomes a greater threat to the U.S. and our allies around the world, it is critical that we turn up pressure on this regime. In February, Sen. Brown and his colleagues on the Senate Banking Committee voted to ratchet up the sanctions that may be applied to Iran to discourage the Ahmadinejad regime from its pursuit of nuclear weapons. The Committee's bill would also authorize new sanctions on Syria to protest its brutal crackdown on its citizens. Sen. Brown applauded the Banking Committee's passage of Iran and Syria sanctions legislation, along with passage of an amendment that he supported that would provide restitution to the families of 150 service members – including 10 in Ohio – who were victims of a 1983 Iranian terrorist attack on a Marine Corps barracks in Beirut. This legislation passed the Senate in August and will provide new sanctions targeting human rights violators in Iran and Syria.

Sen. Brown also cosponsored the *Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Human Rights Act of 2012*, which passed the Senate in May and authorizes new tools for President Obama to employ in an effort to pressure Iran into complying with international obligations. Sen. Brown helped to pass this legislation through the Senate Banking Committee with unanimous bipartisan support earlier in the year. The legislation will put further economic pressure on Iran's leaders to abandon their illicit nuclear program and support for international terrorism.

In December, Sen. Brown joined a bipartisan supermajority of Senators in sending a letter to President Obama urging the Administration to take four steps as it prepares for the possible resumption of nuclear negotiations with Iran. Led by Sens. Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Joseph Lieberman (I-CT), and Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), the letter was signed by a total of 74 Senators. Sanctions that are currently in place have harmed the Iranian economy, although Iran continues moving forward with its nuclear program. In the letter, the Senators called for increased sanctions, support for the Iranian people, and the formation of a credible military coalition to combat the Iranian threat.

## Supporting Israel

Israel—one of our closest allies—must have the resources needed to defend its interests and protect its citizens. Among our many shared priorities, we must work together to ensure that Israel can defend itself against growing threats to its security. In April, Sen. Brown renewed his call for stronger efforts to support Israel in a meeting with American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) national leaders this week. Sen. Brown also cosponsored the *U.S.-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012*, legislation that would provide additional surplus U.S. defense resources to Israel.

On Israeli Independence Day, Sen. Brown met with 26 Ohioans during the Jewish Federation's "Mission to Washington, DC: A Day to Focus on Israel Issues" trip to discuss new legislation to strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship. Sen. Brown cosponsored the *Iron Dome Support Act*, which would authorize the President to provide assistance for the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system.

Sen. Brown also cosponsored a bipartisan resolution in November reaffirming Israel's right to self-defense. The Senate resolution, originally introduced by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), expressed vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state with secure borders, and recognizes and strongly supports its right to act in self-defense to protect its citizens against acts of terrorism.

## **Compensating Massacre Victims**

We must hold terrorists accountable, and accountability means that every victim's family of the 1972 Olympic Massacre is compensated—including the family of Ohioan David Berger. With the fall of the Qaddafi regime in Libya, the U.S. must seize the opportunity to compensate these families and send a clear signal to terrorist regimes that we will not rest in our fight for justice.

In February, Sen. Brown urged President Obama to begin negotiations with the Israeli and Libyan governments to provide compensation to the victims of the Munich Massacre. The Black September Organization (BSO) is responsible for the Munich Massacre at the 1972 Summer Olympic Games, which resulted in the death of 11 members of the Israeli Olympic team, including David Berger. While Libya has agreed to compensate other victims of its terrorist activities, previous attempts to engage the Libyan government on the Munich Massacre have failed. In a September letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Sen. Brown urged the State Department to press the new Libyan government to compensate the victims of terrorism sponsored by the Qaddafi regime.

## **Fighting Terror**

As Hezbollah's terrorist activities continue, the United States has an obligation to urge our allies to stand up to this terrorist organization. In a bipartisan letter to the Vice President of the European Union (EU), Sen. Brown joined a group of 74 Senators in calling on the EU to strengthen cooperation in fighting terror by adding Hezbollah to the list of terrorist organizations. Designating Hezbollah as a terrorist organization would send a clear message that the EU—along with the United States—does not tolerate acts of terror, whether carried out at home or elsewhere.

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# Education

Access to affordable, quality education is critical to the economic vitality of our nation. To help prepare Americans for success in college and careers, Sen. Brown has consistently advocated for job training programs for high-demand fields and affordable post-secondary options for all qualified individuals.

## Providing Job Training to our Nation's Youth

Youth unemployment continues to exceed general unemployment rates. To provide more opportunities to young people, Sen. Brown introduced the *Youth Corps Act of 2012*. This legislation would amend the *Workforce Investment Act* to enable states and local communities to replicate and strengthen the Youth Corps model of success, which connects qualified young people with education and a supportive workplace in their communities.

In the Youth Corps model, adult leaders serve as mentors and guide crews of 8-12 Corps members as they gain the paid work experience and develop strong work ethic skills in the workplace. Corps members also receive a living allowance, classroom instruction to improve basic academic competencies, complete high school, and prepare for postsecondary education, and a wide range of supportive services. Additionally, they participate in technical skills training and leadership development.

Through this legislation, Sen. Brown is fighting to ensure Youth Corps programs across the country are able to leverage their existing resources and ensure that all young adults are provided with the skills they need for success.

## Convening the Fifth Annual College Presidents Conference

In March, Sen. Brown hosted the fifth Ohio College Presidents' Conference – an annual gathering of Ohio's college and university presidents in Washington D.C. – to discuss common goals and challenges facing our academic institutions.

The conference agenda was developed with the assistance of the conference host committee – a group of ten college presidents from across the state. With Jamie Merisotis of the Lumina Foundation as the keynote speaker, the conference addressed the need to produce more college graduates across the state.

Other featured speakers included John Holdren, Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, who discussed the need to encourage



students to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics and how such an investment could lead to stronger communities and a stronger nation. The conference also included Sen. Rob Portman, representatives of the Ohio House Delegation, and member of the White House Domestic Policy Council.

## Making College More Affordable

College costs continue to climb at a rate surpassing inflation, even as the need for post-secondary education is increasingly important for an individual's financial stability and our nation's economic health. However, because of legislation that passed as part of the 2007 *College Cost Reduction and Access Act*, interest rates for subsidized Stafford loans for undergraduate students was capped at 3.4 percent. Without Congressional action, these loans would have doubled to 6.8 percent in July when the cap expired. Such an increase would have affected nearly 382,000 students in Ohio and led to an additional \$1,000 in student loan debt per subsidized Stafford loan.



To address this pressing issue, Sen. Brown fought to keep student loan interest rates for borrowers at 3.4 percent. In April, Sen. Brown introduced the *Stop the Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act of 2012*, which would maintain the interest rate at 3.4 percent for one additional year. Through the advocacy of Sen. Brown and his colleagues, this legislation – which was fully paid for – passed both the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate and was signed into law by President Obama in July.

## Addressing Private Student Loan Debt

Prior to the 2008 economic collapse, the private student loan market grew at a rapid rate. During the 2007-2008 the academic year, 14 percent of undergraduates used private student loans an increase from just 5 percent in 2003 and 2004. Private student loans are the riskiest way to pay for college. Often, these loans come with a variable interest rates ranging from five percent to more than 18 percent with no limit on origination and other fees. The reason for such a drastic increase in lending can be attributed to multiple factors – the growing cost of college and stagnant aggregate federal loan limits, easily available credit for borrowers, and predatory lending practices by student loan lenders.

As a result of these factors, borrowers are now burdened with nearly \$150 billion in private student loan debt with limited relief options. Unlike federal loans, private student loans do not come with flexible repayment rates or loan forgiveness options. Additionally, unlike other private debt, private student loans are not dischargeable in bankruptcy.

To help make college more affordable for middle-class and low-income families, Sen. Brown, who chairs the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protections, held a hearing



to examine ways to provide relief to private student loan borrowers in the student loan market. This hearing coincided with the Department of Education's and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) release of a report on the private student loan market. Rohit Chopra testified at the hearing on behalf of the CFPB's Student Loan Ombudsman – a department that will provide private student loan borrowers with a central location to make complaints about their private student loans.

Sen. Brown played a crucial role in the establishment of the Student Loan Ombudsman, which passed as part of the *Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act*.

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# Energy & Environment

## Growing Ohio's Clean Energy Economy

Sen. Brown is committed to energy policy that decreases American dependence on foreign oil, increases energy efficiency, and creates good-paying manufacturing jobs in Ohio. He recognizes that a smart energy policy is also smart jobs policy that can help to make Ohio a leader not only in traditional fuel sources, including natural gas and coal, but also clean energy technology like wind, solar, and biomass. From the recently-opened wind farms in Van Wert and Paulding Counties, to the potential of shale development in Southeastern Ohio, Sen. Brown supports a diversified approach to solving our nation's energy challenges.

## Promoting Clean Energy Manufacturing

While Ohio is a national leader in clean energy manufacturing, about 70 percent of the components of clean energy systems are built outside of the United States. Sen. Brown believes that we should not trade our dependence on foreign oil for a dependence on foreign-manufactured clean energy sources. As clean energy becomes one of the world's largest industries, manufacturing provides an opportunity for the U.S. to restore its industrial base and create good-paying American jobs.

Sen. Brown has advocated for the expansion of tax credits for manufacturers who are seeking to create new equipment used for clean energy production in the U.S. These successful tax credits, known as the 48C Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credits, provide critical financing for companies. Sen. Brown introduced the *Security in Energy and Manufacturing Act of 2011* (SEAM Act) to expand the 48C credit.

Following a roundtable discussion at the University of Toledo Clean Energy Incubator with stakeholders in Northwest Ohio's solar industry, Sen. Brown introduced a bill requiring certain levels of domestic content in solar panels in order to qualify for existing solar tax credits. The bill requires 70 percent of the parts in the panel be produced domestically or, if assembled in the United States, that 50 percent of the components be manufactured domestically.

## Protecting Ohio's Solar Industry from Unfair Trade

Imports of Chinese solar panels increased 1,593 percent between 2006 and 2010. Without aggressive trade enforcement by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Ohio solar producers will be forced to continue to compete on an uneven playing field against Chinese manufacturers. Sen. Brown has supported Ohio's solar industry by urging the Obama Administration to defend solar companies and workers from China's massive subsidies to its solar exporters. In May, he applauded the Obama's administration decision to levy tariffs of between 31 percent and 250 percent on Chinese exporters dumping artificially low priced solar panels in the American market.

Earlier in the year, Sen. Brown toured First Solar's solar module production facility in Perrysburg with U.S. Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary Nicole Lamb-Hale and members of the President's Manufacturing Council.

## **Supporting Offshore Wind Energy in Lake Erie**

Wind energy not only generates clean, renewable energy but also creates jobs. Offshore wind energy has the potential to bring thousands of new manufacturing jobs to Ohio and clean energy to millions of homes near Lake Erie. Several wind projects are up and running around the state and Lake Erie has the potential to house the United States' first freshwater offshore wind project.

Sen. Brown has used his position on the Senate Appropriations Committee to ensure that the Department of Energy's water-based wind programs consider wind generation on the Great Lakes and not simply ocean-based projects. In 2011, Sen. Brown was also an original cosponsor of a bipartisan investment tax credit for offshore wind development.

Last year, Sen. Brown announced that Case Western Reserve University, Freshwater Wind, and Nautica Windpower were awarded new federal resources to research advanced wind turbine systems that are expected to help spur new technological innovations, reduce costs, and improve efficiency in creating new offshore wind energy systems.

In December, Sen. Brown helped secure \$4 million in critical federal funds to advance offshore wind development in Lake Erie. The Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation (LEEDCo) was awarded these key resources from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to establish an offshore wind demonstration project on Lake Erie, the first project of its kind in the United States. LEEDCo plans to install nine 3-megawatt direct-drive wind turbines on Lake Erie, seven miles off the coast of Cleveland.

Sen. Brown continues to work closely with wind experts, developers, and universities in Northern Ohio to help coordinate offshore wind research and development and to help implement efforts to build the first freshwater wind farm in Lake Erie.

## **Creating Natural Gas Jobs in Ohio**

The natural gas deposits in the Marcellus and Utica shale have the potential to create jobs in



Eastern Ohio, boost Ohio's steel and chemical industry, and provide a cleaner burning fuel source. Sen. Brown believes that new jobs in this industry should be going to Ohioans, rather than out-of-state workers, and that drilling companies should be using materials and supplies made and constructed by Ohio manufacturers. In April, Sen. Brown held a job fair in North Canton to connect veterans with job openings in the natural gas industry. This event was held with a major natural gas developer and was attended by more than 1,200 job-seekers.

Sen. Brown is also working to ensure that our air and water is protected for current and future generations, and that property owners leasing their land are getting a fair deal from oil and gas

companies. Empowering local communities to make decisions on this critical issue is important. Sen. Brown has expressed his concern about injection wells for disposal of wastewater from the hydrofracking process that has been linked to earthquakes in the Mahoning Valley.

## Addressing High Gas Prices

Several indicators have shown that gas prices are rising in part due to excessive speculation by hedge funds in the financial markets, as has been the case in past spikes in gas prices. Sen. Brown is working to address high gas prices at the pump, including price spikes due to oil speculation, which occurs when prices are driven by investor activity, rather than traditional market forces. In numerous letters sent to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), Sen. Brown urged the agency to use its full authority to protect consumers and small businesses from artificially inflated gas prices by setting position limits to curb excessive Wall Street speculation in the oil markets. Sen. Brown has also cosponsored the *No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act (NOPEC)*. This legislation would make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal.



## Protecting Lake Erie

Lake Erie is one of Ohio's most valuable resources and Sen. Brown is dedicated to protecting it. He is an original cosponsor of a number of bills that would improve water quality, promote economic development, and stop the spread of invasive species that harm the Great Lakes.

### Improving Water Quality and Reducing Algal Blooms in Lake Erie

A clean and healthy Lake Erie benefits all Ohioans. The Western Lake Erie Basin, however, has been experiencing algal blooms that pose a threat to Ohio's economy and Ohioans' ability to enjoy the lake. Sen. Brown has been working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service to address head-on the challenges facing this critical watershed. In March, Sen. Brown joined Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to announce a \$2 million grant to reduce agricultural runoff from entering Lake Erie. This funding will allow farmers and producers in the watershed to employ the best conservation practices possible to reduce phosphorous levels and demonstrate the agricultural sector's role in cleaning up Lake Erie.

### Stopping the Invasion of Asian Carp

Researchers have found that in many sections of the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, Asian carp are the only species present. More than 185 species of invasive fish, mussels, and plants from Asia and Eastern Europe are already in the Great Lakes system, choking out native species. Sen. Brown remains concerned with the possible spread of Asian carp, an invasive species that would threaten the ecosystem of Lake Erie, into the Great Lakes.

In April, Sen. Brown cosponsored the bipartisan *Stop Asian Carp Act*, a bill aimed at preventing the potential migration of Asian carp from the Mississippi River into the Great Lakes. The bill, which built upon prior legislation that he supported, was signed into law in July and directs the Army Corps of Engineers to study the watersheds of the Illinois, Chicago, and Calumet Rivers to determine the feasibility and best way to implement hydrologic separation of the rivers from the Great Lakes. The study would address flooding, wastewater, stormwater, and safety concerns. It would also look at alternative pathways for barge and recreational boating traffic. The bill would also direct the U.S. Geological Survey and the Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor and survey the waters of the Great Lakes basin to identify additional threats from Asian carp, and to identify means of prevention. Sen. Brown had previously included similar language in the Fiscal Year 2012 Appropriations bill for Energy and Water.

Sen. Brown has also urged greater collaboration between the Canadian and U.S. governments to ensure that live Asian carp are not illegally smuggled into Canada. Sen. Brown was concerned that a lack of information sharing between Customs and Border Patrol agencies could result in the introduction of this invasive species directly into Lake Erie.

### **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**

Sen. Brown has been a leading champion of restoring Lake Erie to full health and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a dedicated fund for ecosystem restoration, improvements to water quality, and wildlife and fish restoration. Since its inception in 2009, more than \$20 million in funding is at work in Ohio to clean up Lake Erie, restoring ecosystems and improving fisheries in the watershed, promoting cleaner water, and keeping invasive species out of the lake.

### **Protecting Grand Lake St. Marys**

For several years a toxic, blue-green algae has been growing in the waters of Grand Lake St. Marys leaving the lake unsafe for swimming and contributing to a decline in regional tourism which has led to increased economic hardship for local businesses. Sen. Brown has worked to secure support for conservation efforts focused on water quality of the Grand Lake St. Marys region and related efforts that encourage continued work to improve the health of the lake.

For several years, Sen. Brown has supported locally-led efforts to slow the growth of algae and also to reduce the flow of nutrients into the lake. In March, Sen. Brown announced an award for dedicated Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding through the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service to be used to help farmers in the watershed finance and adopt new practices—such as better manure storage facilities and edge-of-field monitoring—that will contribute to improving the long-term health of the lake.

Grand Lake St. Marys has been an economic anchor of Mercer and Auglaize counties and Sen. Brown remains committed to pursuing all possible solutions to restore it.

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# Financial Services and Tax Policies that Work for Working Ohioans

## Ensuring the Financial System Strengthens the Middle Class

As a member of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection, Sen. Brown is working to make sure that the financial services industry is working for Americans in the Midwest, not just those on the coasts. He has fought to end reckless speculation in our financial market and enhance lending to families and small businesses. He has worked to protect taxpayers from “too big to fail” banks while lowering burdens on regional banks, community banks, and credit unions. Sen. Brown believes that this will put our nation on a path toward building an economy that serves Main Street, not just Wall Street.

## Leveling the Playing Field with Wall Street Megabanks

Trillion-dollar banks currently receive unfair subsidies because the market believes that they are “too big to fail.” Sen. Brown is working to end this practice and prevent future bailouts. That is why he introduced the *SAFE Banking Act*, legislation that would place sensible size and limits on Wall Street megabanks. By capping the amount of debt that megabanks can take on, the *SAFE Banking Act* would remove the unfair, taxpayer-supported subsidy they receive by virtue of their size. This legislation would prevent bailouts and protect against economic collapse.



As Chairman of the Senate Banking Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection, Sen. Brown held hearings on measures that protect taxpayers from the damage caused by Wall Street megabanks, with testimony from Former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, Former FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair, FDIC Board Member Thomas Hoenig, and Former IMF Chief Economist Simon Johnson. In August, Sen. Brown was joined by fellow Senate

Banking Committee member Sen. David Vitter (R-LA) in calling on the Federal Reserve to require the six largest Wall Street megabanks to fund themselves with more equity and less debt, and to give fair treatment to regional banks like Ohio’s Key Bank, Huntington, and Fifth Third.

## Eliminating Unnecessary Regulations

Sen. Brown is a cosponsor of common sense legislation to eliminate a duplicative regulation that requires automatic teller machines (ATMs) to post two separate notices regarding fees assessed during a transaction through both an electronic disclosure and a physical disclosure (for example, a placard on the outside of a machine). Unfortunately, these placards are easy to remove and provide a basis for civil lawsuits that may be costly for small banks and credit unions. Sen.

Brown's bill would remove the physical placard requirement while preserving on-screen ATM transaction fee disclosures.

### **Protecting Confidential Community Bank Information**

Although community banks with less than \$10 billion in assets are not supervised by the new Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (CFPB), there are certain circumstances in which the CFPB may have access to community bank information. Sen. Brown believes that the CFPB should follow the same confidentiality rules that other banking agencies follow. That is why he cosponsored legislation that would extend existing confidential information protections to information provided to the CFPB.

### **Lifting the Arbitrary Cap on Credit Union Business Lending**

By lifting the cap on credit union business lending, Ohio's small businesses will gain access to valuable new economic resources for Ohio's economy at no additional cost to taxpayers. Sen. Brown is a cosponsor of the *Small Business Lending Enhancement Act*, which seeks to lift the cap on credit unions' permitted commercial lending from 12.25 percent to 27.5 percent.



### **Preserving the Tax-Exempt Status of Credit Unions**

Sen. Brown supports the federal tax-exempt status of not-for-profit credit unions that provide valuable financial products to Ohio communities. In July, Sen. Brown wrote to Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner in support of preserving credit unions' tax status, which stems from the fact that they are a different kind of financial institution focused exclusively on the well-being of their members. Sen. Brown believes that this exemption is appropriate and that it is wrong to take money from credit unions' shareholders, who are also their members.

## **Making Tax Policy Work for the Middle Class**

### **Ensuring a Fair Tax Code**

As a result of the financial crisis, tax revenues have been at the lowest level in over six decades. Over the past three years, revenue has averaged 15.2 percent of GDP; the last time it was this low was in 1950. The best way to tackle this revenue problem is to turn the economy around – more economic growth will mean more profits, which will lead to more revenue. But growth alone will not help fix a tax code that is overly complex and contains many loopholes that benefit the wealthy and special interests. Sen. Brown believes that we need to reform the tax code so that it is simpler and fairer for all Americans and so that the wealthiest Americans and multinational corporations pay their fair share. Our tax code should reward companies and individuals for doing the right thing, like moving jobs home.

## **Paying a Fair Share**

Middle class Ohioans have always worked hard and played by the rules—now it is time that the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share too. Sen. Brown supports the *Middle Class Tax Relief Act* that would extend tax cuts for the middle class – those making less than \$250,000 per year. Sen. Brown believes that we should not raise taxes on the middle class during these challenging economic times. The bill would extend middle class tax cuts for 99 percent of Ohio families, and Ohio households would save an average of \$1,400 on their taxes each year. At the same time, our nation cannot afford to blow a \$900 billion hole in the budget over the next 10 years so that the top two percent can receive tax cuts that they do not need.

## **Simplifying Tax Rules for the Modern Workforce**

In our increasingly mobile economy, employees that travel for their work can wind up having to pay taxes in a number of states even if they only worked in the state(s) for only a few days. This creates confusion and unnecessary costs for taxpayers. For this reason, Sen. Brown introduced the *Mobile Workforce State Income Tax Simplification Act* to create a uniform national standard for collecting employment taxes from out-of-state workers. Currently, 41 states impose a personal income tax on wages, with many differing tax requirements regarding the withholding for income tax of non-residents. A national uniform standard would reduce the burdens imposed on taxpayers and tax preparers by the many different rules covering nonresident income.

## **Easing the Tax Burden for Small Businesses**

To file their tax returns, investors need information on their companies, but the various staggered due dates for filing by legal entities like C-Corporations, S-Corporations, partnerships, and so on, can make tax time confusing and frustrating. Taxpayers and preparers have long struggled with problems created when the proper corporate investment reporting forms arrive late, sometimes within mere days of the extended due date of their personal returns and up to a month after the extended due date of their business returns. Late forms make it difficult, if not impossible, for partnerships and small business pass-throughs to file timely, accurate returns. To address this problem, Sen. Brown is a cosponsor of the bipartisan *Tax Return Due Date Simplification and Modernization Act*, which would update tax filing dates and provide certainty for taxpayers and tax practitioners.

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# Health Care and Seniors

Sen. Brown has been working to improve access to high quality, affordable health care for Ohioans – and all Americans – including children, seniors, and working families.

## Promoting Children's Health



A healthy and productive adulthood begins with a healthy childhood. That is why Sen. Brown has worked to increase the number of pediatric physicians, ease the primary care and subspecialist shortages, promote the development of treatments and cures for rare pediatric diseases, and ensure health insurance coverage for children.

### Ensuring a Robust Pediatric Workforce

Following significant declines in pediatric residencies in the 1990s, Sen. Brown authored

the *Children's Hospitals Education and Research Act* in 1998.

The Children's Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program provides freestanding children's hospitals – including seven in Ohio – with resources to help them sustain, improve, and expand their teaching and training opportunities. CHGME hospitals train 40 percent of the country's general pediatricians and 43 percent of the pediatric specialists. Over the last decade, Sen. Brown has ensured the continuation of the program through reauthorization legislation and appropriations.

When President Obama submitted a budget that funded CHMGE at \$88 million – a 66 percent cut from last year – Sen. Brown successfully fought to restore funding to \$265 million. Ohio's children's hospitals receive about \$30 million annually.

## Treating Pediatric Diseases and Disorders

Sen. Brown has been a consistent advocate for federal resources that support pediatric research, including expanded resources for rare and neglected pediatric diseases.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) estimates that there are more than 6,000 rare diseases, but these are often overlooked by pharmaceutical companies because they cannot guarantee the same return on investment as the more common diseases.

To help spur private-sector innovation, Sen. Brown's legislation, the *Creating Hope Act*, was successfully included in the *Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act*, which became law in July. The *Creating Hope Act* increases incentives for the development of treatments for disabling and deadly rare pediatric diseases.

Pediatric diseases not only need additional private-sector commercialization but also require a substantial boost in basic and translation research. While children make up about 20 percent of



the U.S. population, only about five percent of NIH's annual research is devoted to pediatrics. If this rate of investment is not expanded, discoveries of new treatments and therapies for some of the most devastating childhood diseases and conditions will be hindered, and the next generation of researchers may be discouraged from entering into the field of pediatrics.

To combat this trend, Sen. Brown introduced the *National Pediatric Research Network Act* which would reverse the current situation by strengthening and expanding NIH's investments in pediatric research. This expanded investment would help accelerate new discoveries and directly affect the health and well-being of children throughout the country. The centerpiece of the legislation would be the authorization of up to 20 National Pediatric Research Consortia at institutions throughout the nation – some of which would be dedicated to pediatric rare diseases.

### **Protecting Children from Dangerous ‘Adult Desk Toys’**

Keeping children safe from household items is no easy task. Sometimes, parents or family friends are unaware of all the dangers inherent in common products. After children's hospitals in Ohio—including those in Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland—reported to Sen. Brown that they were treating more and more children who have swallowed harmful and potentially fatal high-powered magnets, he sent a letter urging the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to warn parents about these magnets, often sold as “desk toys.”

The shiny, round magnets are marketed as “Buckyballs,” among other labels, and may appear like candy to children, but swallowing two or more can cause serious internal injuries or even death in children.

Two weeks after Sen. Brown called on the CPSC to protect children from potentially fatal high-powered magnets, the agency moved to ban the sale of these “toys.”

### **Ensuring Access to Life-Saving Medication**



Ohio is home to world-class medical facilities, but due to a growing drug shortage problem, patients are experiencing delays in treatment because doctors cannot access the proper medication. A recent survey of more than 800 hospitals revealed that all of them reported a drug shortage in a six month period. Not only are patients experiencing treatment delays, at least 15 deaths in the past two years can be blamed on drug shortages. These deaths were caused either due to the preferred drug being unavailable, problems with the preparation or administration of the alternative medication, or because of dosing errors with the

alternative medication. Sen. Brown has been working to combat drug shortages.

### **Engaging Stakeholders to Alleviate Shortages**

In January, Sen. Brown convened a Drug Shortage Roundtable with Ohio hospital CEOs, Directors of Pharmacy, and other hospital staffers who confront this problem to discuss possible



solutions to improve patient outcomes. Participants discussed a variety of reasons for drug shortages, including quality control issues or production problems, issues in the supply chain for raw materials, delays in manufacturing or shipping, mergers in the pharmaceutical industry – both branded and generic companies, and pharmaceutical companies can decide to stop producing a drug, often due to low profit margins.

### **Giving Hospitals Flexibility to Care for Patients**

Sen. Brown has been on the forefront of enacting legislation to combat the reasons for drug shortages. Taking the suggestions of hospital personnel, Sen. Brown included a Repackaging Provision in the *Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act* to allow hospital systems the ability to repackage drugs in shortage.

Previously, lack of guidance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) prevented hospital systems from dividing larger vials of medication for redistribution among hospitals within the same medical system. Sen. Brown’s provision allows hospital systems to “repackage” larger doses of life-saving medications into multiple doses that can be used throughout the system.

Also included in this bill was the *Preserving Access to Life-Saving Medication Act*. Sen. Brown cosponsored this legislation, which provides the FDA and health care providers with tools to work with the industry so that drug shortages can be remedied before they happen. Specifically, manufacturers will be required to report any known disruption that could cause a drug shortage six months prior to such an event or as early as practicable. The FDA must inform providers of potential shortages and is also required to speed up approvals of pending drug applications and facility inspections that could alleviate the shortage.

### **Implementing Health Reform**

Sen. Brown has long advocated for accessible, affordable, high quality health care for all. That is why he is proud to have voted for the *Affordable Care Act* (“the health law”), which will expand health care coverage to the nearly 50 million Americans who are currently uninsured and will reduce costs for small businesses and working families who already have coverage.

### **Making Insurance Companies Work Better for Consumers**

Since its passage, the health law has resulted in a number of beneficial changes to the American health care system.

The health law allows children up through age 26 to remain on their parents’ health insurance. Approximately 2.5 million young adults have benefitted from this provision.

Children and their families have also benefited from a provision that prohibits health insurance plans from excluding, limiting, or denying coverage to children under age 19 due to a pre-existing decision. These protections will be extended to Americans of all ages in 2014.

The health reform law is also working to end insurance company abuses. Starting this year, consumers will have the right to know why a claim has been denied or why their insurance

company terminated their policy. Consumers will also have the right to appeal those decisions – first through the insurance company and then through an independent third party review. Insurance companies will no longer be permitted to unjustifiably raise premiums, nor will they be able to spend large portions of consumers’ premiums on executive bonuses, marketing, advertising, and overhead. The health reform law requires that health insurance plans sold to individuals and groups spend 80 percent of premiums on actual medical care – 85 percent for large group plans. Insurers who do not meet this requirement must provide rebates to their customers. On August 1, insurance companies gave rebates of more than \$11.3 million to Ohioans.

The health law will also enable consumers to more easily understand and determine the best health insurance options for themselves and their families. Starting this year, 180 million consumers with private health insurance will have access to clear, consistent, and comparable information about plan benefits and coverage. This information will include a glossary of terms and “coverage examples” that illustrate what proportion of expenses a health insurance policy or plan would cover for three common scenarios – having a baby, treating breast cancer, and managing diabetes.

For individuals who have been rejected from insurance plans due to a pre-existing condition, the health reform law created a temporary high risk pool to help provide affordable health insurance coverage to those who were previously uninsured. United States citizens with a pre-existing condition who have gone without health insurance for at least six months are eligible for the program. Sen. Brown has heard from a number of constituents who have benefitted from the high risk pools and would have died or been forced into poverty without the coverage available to them through this program.

### **Strengthening Medicare through the Health Reform Law**

Seniors saw a number of new benefits through the Medicare program thanks to health care reform. Over time, the health law fixes the dangerous Medicare prescription drug coverage gap known as the “donut hole.” Since the inception of the Part D program in 2003, seniors who reach a limit on covered drugs are often stuck having to pay the entire cost of prescriptions for a period of time until coverage kicks in again.

Since the passage of the health law, Ohio’s seniors in the so-called “donut hole” have saved more than \$164 million on their prescription drug costs. Last year, 185,014 Ohio seniors saved nearly \$95 million, and those savings will only increase as the “donut hole” is closed completely. Additionally, the health reform law is providing seniors with traditional Medicare free preventive services such as colonoscopies and mammograms. There will no longer be copayments or deductibles for these types of services. Over 24 million beneficiaries with Medicare Part B have received a free annual physical or other screening exam in 2011 – including over 1.2 million Ohioans.

The health reform law is also providing seniors with new tools to evaluate Medicare Advantage and Part D plans. Beneficiaries can visit the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) website to see how various plans compare. Plans that have achieved the highest rating – five stars – will be denoted by a gold star icon so they are easy to identify.

The health law also provides the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) with additional tools to fight fraud proactively. Prior to the passage of the health reform law, CMS would track down fraudulent claims after they had already been paid. Enhancements in the health law will help put an end to “pay and chase,” protecting legitimate beneficiaries while working to prevent fraudsters from entering the system.

## **Protecting Ohio’s Seniors**

Medicare and Social Security are constantly discussed by Washington insiders but all too often the thoughts of beneficiaries are not included in the debate. Last year, Sen. Brown launched a series of tele-town halls with seniors in all 88 counties. In 2012, Sen. Brown held 25 tele-town halls where he listened to the concerns of Ohio seniors. During each call, more than 10,000 people participated and Sen. Brown took questions on every issue affecting the state.



## **Preserving Medicare and Medicaid**

Medicare and Medicaid are essential social programs that reaffirm the government’s commitment to seniors and low-income Americans. Prior to the creation of Medicare in 1965, only half of America’s seniors had health insurance, and most of those with insurance only had coverage for inpatient hospital care. Additionally, some 30 percent of seniors lived below the poverty line.

Now, only 1.8 percent lack health coverage and less than nine percent live below the poverty line. Medicaid provides health coverage for low-income Americans – primarily children, disabled individuals, poor seniors, and pregnant women. Sixty-eight million Americans currently receive health care through Medicaid. Sen. Brown is committed to ensuring Medicare and Medicaid remain strong for our country’s most vulnerable populations.

Following passage in the House of Representatives of a bill authored by House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan, that would privatize Medicare, Sen. Brown led a group of 50 Senators on a letter to President Obama expressing their opposition to the plan. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), in the first year of the private voucher program, out-of-pocket expenses for seniors would double to more than \$12,500 annually. As the average Social Security benefit is only \$14,000 per year, seniors simply cannot afford to pay that much for their health care.

During the bipartisan deficit reduction talks, Sen. Brown joined four of his Senate colleagues on a letter to Vice President Biden urging him to reject the House-passed plan to dismantle Medicare. He also held multiple press conferences – in Ohio and Washington, DC – with seniors and advocates to stand up against threats to end Medicare as we know it for Ohio’s nearly two million seniors.

In 2011, Sen. Brown joined 36 of his Senate colleagues on a letter opposing a House of Representatives-passed bill that would turn Medicaid into a block grant. Block grants would shift costs to the states, force a reduction of services, and end federal oversight in how Medicaid resources are distributed. The Medicaid program is an essential part of Ohio's health care system, long-term care system, and economy. Ohioans who depend on Medicaid, three fourths of whom are children and their parents, would experience a decreased quality of care under a block grant system. Senior citizens and individuals with disabilities, who account for two thirds of Medicaid spending, would also experience hardship due to a reduction in long-term care services.

Sen. Brown believes there are ways to reduce Medicare and Medicaid spending without simply slashing benefits or cost-shifting to seniors or the states. That is why he cosigned a letter to President Obama advocating for swifter implementation of health care delivery system reforms. This approach would not only reduce costs for seniors, Medicare, Medicaid, and the federal government, but would also reduce costs for all Americans.

## **Promoting Women's Health**

Sen. Brown is a leading advocate for women's health – from promoting preventive care to ending gender discrimination in health insurance.

### **Ending Gender Discrimination in Health Insurance**

Prior to the passage of the health law it was legal in nine states for insurance companies to deny coverage to women who were victims of domestic violence because it was considered a pre-existing condition. Pregnancy could also be considered a pre-existing condition, thus excluding maternity coverage for the 14 million women who purchase their coverage through the individual insurance market. And, in most states, women are charged higher premiums – sometimes 150 percent more than men. That is why Sen. Brown supported the Women's Health Amendment, included in the health law, which requires all health plans to cover comprehensive women's preventive care screenings at no additional cost to women.



Beginning on August 1, women now have access to the new covered services: domestic violence screening and counseling, gestational diabetes screening for at-risk women, postpartum counseling, lactation counseling, HIV and sexually transmitted infection testing and counseling, contraception coverage, and an annual well-women visit.

## Supporting Medical Research for Women



In the last forty years, the National Cancer Institute (NCI), academic medical centers, and researchers across the country have made remarkable strides in improving treatments and therapies for various cancers. Today, there are 12 million Americans who are cancer survivors. Despite this progress, effective treatments for some cancers – including ovarian cancer – remain elusive.

Sen. Brown joined more than a dozen Senate colleagues as an original cosponsor of the National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month Resolution to keep making medical progress. This year, the American Cancer Society estimates that 22,000 women will develop ovarian cancer and more than 15,550 women will lose their battle with this deadly cancer. If detected earlier, an ovarian cancer patient has a 94 percent chance of surviving longer than 5 years. However, only 20 percent of ovarian cancer is detected in its early stage, and when diagnosed in the advanced stage there is only a 30 percent chance of survival. This makes ovarian cancer the deadliest of all gynecologic cancers. The National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Resolution designates September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and encourages the efforts of cancer advocates to increase public awareness. It also supports the NCI and medical researchers work to develop a reliable early detection test.

One in eight women will develop breast cancer. Not only is breast cancer the most common form of cancer among women, but it is also a leading cause of cancer deaths for women. Sen. Brown believes that finding new treatments and cures for breast cancer should be a priority of the federal government. With this in mind, Sen. Brown introduced the *Accelerating the End of Breast Cancer Act*. This legislation would establish a commission with the goal of ending breast cancer by January 1, 2020. The Commission would evaluate research projects or potential programs that need additional attention or funding and then identify opportunities for public-private collaboration.

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# Housing: Revitalizing Ohio's Neighborhoods

Stable, affordable housing is critical to ensuring strong neighborhoods, schools, and communities. Over the last decade and a half, Ohio experienced a slow and drawn-out housing crisis. A number of factors including the erosion of our domestic manufacturing base, the spread of predatory lending, and the financial crisis led to 14 consecutive years of increasing foreclosures in Ohio. Foreclosures affect the property values of surrounding homes and lead to vacant lots vulnerable to crime. Tackling Ohio's housing challenges requires wide-ranging and comprehensive action. That is why Sen. Brown championed various proposals to help fix the housing market – from preventing foreclosures to streamlining short sales to redeveloping communities hit hard by the foreclosure crisis.

## Facilitating Short Sales

Nearly one-third of Ohio homeowners owe more on their mortgages than their homes are currently worth. For underwater homeowners who decide it's time to move on, a short sale is their only option. Unfortunately, big banks have been extremely slow in responding to short sale offers, and as a result, too often one of the parties to the transaction walks away from the deal. In February, Sen. Brown introduced the bipartisan *Prompt Notification of Short Sales Act*, a proposal to require that banks respond to short sale offers within 75 days. In April, the Federal Housing Finance Agency announced that it will require mortgage servicers to review and respond to short sale requests within 30 days of an offer on the property and make a final decision within 60 days of receiving the offer.

## Providing Tax Relief to Homeowners

With the Ohio housing market recovering slowly, homeowners should not be hit with an unfair tax bill. In 2007, Congress enacted legislation to relieve homeowners of the requirement to pay taxes on mortgage debt forgiven through transactions like mortgage modifications and short sales. This was extended in 2009, but it expires at the end of 2012. Sen. Brown is an original cosponsor of the bipartisan *Mortgage Forgiveness Tax Relief Act* that would preserve this vital homeowner tax relief provision.



## Protecting Servicemembers and Veteran Homeowners

Servicemembers who risk their lives to protect our nation shouldn't have to worry about predatory banking practices or losing their homes. The *Servicemembers Civil Relief Act* (SCRA) protects active servicemembers against default judgments, evictions, mortgage foreclosures, and repossessions of property. Banks have admitted to violating the SCRA, resulting in military personnel and their families paying significantly more interest than permitted by law, and in some cases losing their homes to unlawful foreclosures. Sen. Brown wrote to the U.S. Department of Justice and Holly

Petraeus of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) about this issue, urging them to provide greater protections for servicemembers. In June, Sen. Brown introduced the *Servicemember Protection Act* to strengthen SCRA provisions for active-duty military that are homeowners. The bill would prevent judgments against a servicemember when he or she cannot appear in court due to military service and would increase civil penalties for banks that violate the SCRA and wrongfully foreclose on servicemembers' homes. It would also expand the U.S. Department of Justice's authority to investigate wrongful foreclosures on servicemembers' homes.

## Preserving Our Neighborhoods



Foreclosure should be a last resort, and financial institutions have an obligation to Ohio's communities to care for the properties that they own. Sen. Brown is fighting to end Ohio's foreclosure crisis and to hold bad actors accountable. In August 2010, Sen. Brown heard from community groups in Cleveland that banks servicing Federal Housing Administration (FHA)-insured mortgages were allowing properties to slip into disrepair. In response, Sen. Brown met with FHA Commissioner David Stevens, sent a letter to acting FHA commissioner Robert Ryan,

and again raised the issue with FHA nominee Carol Galante. In June, FHA issued new guidance that clarified banks' responsibility to maintain properties in compliance with local health and safety codes, as Sen. Brown requested.

## Protecting Ohio's Public Pension Plan Investments in Mortgages

In February, the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), federal bank regulators, and 49 state attorney generals announced a settlement with the five largest mortgage servicers for foreclosure-related violations. During the negotiations, Sen. Brown urged the parties to consider the interests of investors in mortgage securities, namely the nearly \$1.5 billion in investments made by Ohio's four public employee pension funds. He believes that banks should not receive credit under the settlement for writing down mortgages owned by someone else – in this case, Ohio retirees. In May, after the settlement was announced, Sen. Brown and Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN), urged the agencies administering the settlement to take steps to protect mortgage investors.

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# **NASA and Aerospace**

## **Furthering NASA Glenn's Mission**

NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland and its Plum Brook Station in Sandusky are essential components of NASA. Sen. Brown has been fighting to ensure that the critical skills of NASA Glenn's workforce are utilized by NASA as the agency serves its mission to develop innovative aeronautical technology.

In advance of budget proceedings for Fiscal Year 2013, Sen. Brown led members of the Ohio Congressional delegation in a letter asking the President to fully invest in the NASA Glenn Research Center (GRC). The letter requested adequate funding for the Space Technology program, which includes funding to fully implement the Glenn-led Solar-Electric Propulsion Project, and asked the Administration to create an Advanced Energy Program Office at Glenn to coordinate all of the advanced energy work being done there and across the agency, and to drive technology commercialization between NASA and private industry.

## **Fully Utilizing NASA Glenn's Plum Brook Station in Sandusky**

It is critical that NASA Glenn Research Center's Plum Brook facility in Sandusky is fully utilized, and NASA should do all it can to promote the facility and its world-class workforce. Sen. Brown has been a leader in Congressional efforts to save jobs at NASA Glenn and Plum Brook Station.

In January, Sen. Brown sent a letter to NASA Administrator Charles Bolden urging him to support a proposed partnership between the NASA Glenn Research Center and the European Space Agency that would help ensure that the Plum Brook facility in Sandusky is fully utilized. In March, at a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing, Sen. Brown questioned Bolden over NASA mission and resource decisions that affect both Lewis Field and the Plum Brook Station.

Sen. Brown toured Plum Brook's Space Power and B2 facilities and met with workers in April. He has consistently urged Bolden to make full use of the top-notch facilities, scientists, engineers, and technicians at Plum Brook Station and has urged full funding for NASA Glenn. Sen. Brown has also supported Plum Brook's applications for U.S. Transportation Department funds to construct a new runway.

## **Promoting NASA Glenn Partnerships with Ohio Businesses and Communities**

Manufacturers are the backbone of Ohio's economy, and connecting them to NASA's technical expertise will help them grow and add jobs. In May, Sen. Brown applauded the news of federal, county, and city investments in nine Cuyahoga County small- and mid-sized manufacturers to do just that. The City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, NASA Glenn Research Center (GRC), and the Manufacturing Advocacy & Growth Network (MAGNET) announced that these manufacturers will receive assistance from NASA subject matter experts, low-interest-rate loans from the city and county and professional business development assistance from MAGNET to solve technical challenges they face with a new or existing product. The announcement is part of

a new initiative, sponsored by the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy, to lend NASA's technical expertise to local businesses.

As the official home of the NASA Glenn Visitor Center, the Great Lakes Science Center (GLSC) plays a tremendous role in educating families, students, and tourists to the Cleveland area about the accomplishments of the NASA facility in our own backyard. In June, Sen. Brown announced that new federal funds were awarded to the GLSC to establish a gallery highlighting the work of NASA Glenn's accomplishments in aeronautics and aerospace. In January, Sen. Brown led members of the Ohio delegation on a bipartisan letter to NASA Administrator Charles Bolden requesting the funding for the GLSC. The funding, which totals \$900,000, is part of 18 projects selected by NASA to receive agency funding in 2012. Sen. Brown was a member of a committee that helped include the funding in the final version of the Fiscal Year 2012 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. According to NASA, proposals were selected through a merit-based, peer-reviewed process from the 63 proposals received.

### **Honoring Ohio's Former U.S. Senator John Glenn**

Ohio's Former U.S. Senator John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth on February 20, 1962. Born in Cambridge, Ohio and raised in New Concord, Ohio, Glenn is a veteran of World War II and served as Ohio's Senator for 24 years. In February, the Senate unanimously passed a resolution introduced by Sen. Brown recognizing the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Glenn's historic orbit around the Earth. In April, Sen. Brown applauded John Glenn for receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The previous year, Sen. Brown spoke to President Obama and personally handed him a letter nominating Glenn for the award.

Many Ohioans are familiar with John Glenn's remarkable story: in his 90 years, he has been a Marine aviator, an astronaut, a United States Senator, and a noted educator. He reawakened in an entire generation a love for scientific discovery, and later on, represented Ohio with honor in the U.S. Senate. Through his remarkable achievements, John Glenn's life tells our nation's story in the 20th century—how our nation's spirit of discovery could be found in the humility of a hometown hero from Cambridge, Ohio.

## **Growing Ohio's Aerospace Industry**



### **Supporting Ohio Aerospace Suppliers**

Ohio is an aerospace leader because we know how to design and build exceptional machinery. Ohio's innovative scientists and engineers, manufacturing strength, and talented workforce have driven our aerospace success over the last century. According to the Ohio Aerospace Institute, more than 1,200 companies support more than 120,000 jobs in Ohio's aerospace industry. From Cincinnati to Dayton to Columbus to Cleveland, hundreds of Ohio suppliers provide parts and components to cutting edge aerospace machinery. Sen. Brown is working

to connect aerospace suppliers with more business. That's why he partnered with Airbus Americas to formalize a partnership between the company and Ohio suppliers, aimed at growing the state's aerospace industry.

In 2009 and 2010, Sen. Brown worked with the Ohio Edison Technology Centers and the Ohio Aerospace Institute to organize three procurement conferences – in Cleveland, Kettering, and Columbus – that connected more than 800 Ohio businesses and participants with opportunities to break into the Airbus supply chain. The summits were unique because they directly connected suppliers to potential contracting opportunities.

As a result of this partnership, Sen. Brown joined Airbus and the National Composite Center (NCC) in January in Kettering to announce the establishment of a new aerospace research and development consortium. Under a five-year agreement and with an initial \$1 million investment, Airbus is working through the NCC with a consortium of Ohio aerospace suppliers, incubators, and universities to develop next-generation products for use in Airbus' new fleet.

In October, Sen. Brown brought Airbus and the NCC together again to announce a new partnership to identify and develop aerospace suppliers across Ohio. These suppliers will have the opportunity to compete for contract work with Airbus, ultimately leading to the creation of a centralized Ohio Materials Manufacturing Technology Hub that will focus on state-of-the-art materials processing, business analytics, supply chain development, and workforce training and development. This agreement has the potential to increase investment even further so that dozens and dozens of Ohio aerospace companies can be involved. This investment will further strengthen the Ohio manufacturing and material supply chain for Airbus and increase business for Ohio aerospace suppliers.

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# Transportation and Infrastructure

Knowing that a strong infrastructure is the foundation for job creation and economic development, Sen. Brown is a vocal advocate for investing in infrastructure to create jobs and promote our nation's long-term economic growth. Ohio's central location and system of highways, ports, rails, and airports has supported the state's economic growth and helped ensure a leading role in the logistics industry. A lack of investment in our infrastructure cedes a competitive advantage to emerging economies like China, imperils public health and safety, and harms our environment.

## Investing in Roads and Bridges

Continued underinvestment in Ohio's roads and bridges leads to traffic jams, unsafe roads and bridges, and lost business productivity. These investments are especially critical to the construction industry, where unemployment rates outpace those of the overall working population.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, for every \$1 billion spent on highway and bridge construction, nearly 28,000 jobs are created. These include direct jobs involved in the construction of infrastructure projects, indirect jobs created by the purchase of supplies for projects, and induced jobs supported by new consumer spending when Americans go back to work.

That is why Sen. Brown fought to pass a multi-year highway bill. The bipartisan *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act*, passed into law in July, funds the federal highway program for the next two years. Instead of continuing a series of short term extensions that made it difficult for contractors, transit agencies, and the Ohio Department of Transportation to plan, this new bill will provide greater certainty in the years ahead. Not only is our state ensured of consistent funding through 2014—approximately \$1.3 billion per year—but numerous permitting reforms will also reduce project costs by speeding up construction time.

Sen. Brown also worked to include provisions in the bill that would tighten up existing “Buy America” laws to close loopholes that undermine these important laws. One of the most egregious examples is “segmentation,” whereby a project is split into various contracts and federal aid is not used on those where the contractor intends to use foreign iron, steel, and manufactured goods – bypassing American workers and evading the law. This loophole allowed Chinese-made steel to be used in the new Oakland, California Bay Bridge. Closing this loophole helps to ensure that Buy America is effectively enforced.

## Investing in Railroads

Sen. Brown has continued to work with Ohio's short line and Class-A railroads to ensure that shippers receive fair rates and on-time railroad service. He fought for a *Recovery Act* grant for CSX's National Gateway project in North Baltimore which helped create more than 250 jobs in Wood County through the construction of a multimodal facility. Additionally, investments in the Heartland Corridor at Rickenbacker Airport outside of Columbus, funded by both the *Recovery Act* and Federal Highway Administration, led to the arrival of the first double-stack trains in

Central Ohio. Sen. Brown fought to ensure that the Rickenbacker Project was a recipient of the highly competitive Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program through the U.S. Department of Transportation. This summer, Sen. Brown announced that this project received a \$16 million grant to complete this important priority for Central Ohio.

## **Ensuring Access to Transit**

Sen. Brown is working to improve Ohio's transit systems. He supported successful transit grant bids submitted by Cincinnati, Cleveland, Canton, and the Ohio Department of Transportation. Because access to transit means access to jobs and economic opportunity, Sen. Brown introduced legislation supported by the Ohio Public Transit Association that would allow transit systems to use federal dollars targeted for capital expenditure for operating costs in times of economic downturn. This would prevent transit agencies from cutting routes, reducing service frequency, or laying off workers.

Federal spending to help transit agencies replace aging, fuel-inefficient buses, upgrade stations, and improve safety in Dayton, Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, and across the state has also increased substantially from 2006 to 2011. To ensure that America's manufacturing sector is benefiting from this increase in transit funding, in the 111<sup>th</sup> and 112<sup>th</sup> Congresses, Sen. Brown introduced the *Strengthening Manufacturing and Rebuilding Transit (SMART) Act* to ensure that Buy American requirements are in place, the domestic supply has the capacity to meet demand, and Buy American requirements are being enforced as they relate to transit procurement with federal funds. Many provisions of this bill were included in the two year highway bill reauthorization that was signed into law this summer.

## **Reinvesting in Ohio's Maritime Heritage**

Ohio's ports have played a critical role in our heavy industries and shipping our raw materials and grains to the world. Yet, years of sediment buildup in shipping channels has made it difficult for ships to maneuver. That's why Sen. Brown proposed an increase to the amount of funding from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund into our nation's ports.

Currently, a small fee is collected on cargo that comes into port; this fee is deposited into the port's Trust Fund and revenues are used to dredge shipping channels or improve port operations. However, despite overwhelming need, current and past Administrations have declined to spend these funds on port maintenance. That is why Sen. Brown has been a longtime supporter of the *Harbor Maintenance Act* which is supported by Ohio's ports and shippers.

Recognizing the importance of Harbor Maintenance, Sen. Brown joined with a number of his Senate colleagues in writing to the Office of Management and Budget in August asking that the President's Fiscal Year 2014 budget include funding for this important program.

## **Preventing Combined Sewage Overflows**

Sen. Brown is committed to improving water quality and reducing the number of combined sewage overflow (CSO) events in Ohio communities. To address this problem, he first introduced the *Clean Water Affordability Act* with Sen. Voinovich in 2008 and 2009. In 2012,

Sen. Brown reintroduced the bill and included new provisions based on recommendations from a working group his office has convened with several Ohio communities.

The bill – endorsed by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies – would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to update the criteria it uses to determine a municipality’s ability to make investments, promote cost-saving green infrastructure, encourage the prioritization of wastewater investments, and create a standalone grant program for cities and towns making investments in combined sewage overflow sewer systems.

Sen. Brown has also encouraged the EPA to pursue a more collaborative relationship with communities dealing with CSOs and urged the adoption of an “Integrated Permitting Plan” that would allow communities to prioritize investments made in its wastewater treatment systems in order to ensure the most environmental bang for the ratepayers buck. The EPA acted on Sen. Brown’s request and published this document in July.

## Improving Motorcoach Safety



Sen. Brown and Sen. Hutchison (R-TX) introduced the bipartisan *Motorcoach Enhanced Safety Act* in 2011. Sen. Brown first introduced the legislation following a 2007 crash of a tour bus carrying 33 Bluffton University baseball players that claimed seven lives. The bill—which was passed unanimously by a key Senate panel in May and was included in the Senate passed highway bill—is supported by passenger safety advocates as well as Greyhound

and will ensure better trained drivers, seatbelts, stronger windows, and more protective roofs on tour buses. This bill was signed into law in July.

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# Veterans

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Sen. Brown is fighting to provide our nation's veterans with the resources and services they have earned, including improved health care, timely delivery of benefits, improved outreach, and enhanced education and job training benefits.

## Passing a National Defense Authorization Act to Benefit Servicemembers and Their Families

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2013 cleared the Senate in December and was signed into law by President Obama on January 2, 2013. Among the many provisions it contains are provisions that directly affect Ohio's Active Duty, Guard and Reservist servicemembers, military retirees and veterans, and their families. The NDAA:

- Authorizes a 1.7 percent pay increase and extends bonuses and special pay for our men and women in uniform;
- Preserves TRICARE while allowing for a modest increase in TRICARE pharmacy co-pays in 2013 and a cap on pharmacy co-pays beginning in 2014 that would allow fees to rise by no more than the annual retiree Cost-Of-Living-Allowance (COLA).
- Requires that new commanders assess the climate of their organizations with regard to sexual assault shortly after assuming command and then annually and thereafter requires the Department of Defense (DoD) to make information about resources available to report and respond to sexual assaults widely available throughout the DoD.
- Requires the DoD to develop a comprehensive policy on the prevention of suicide among servicemembers. It also requires the Defense Secretary to establish a position within his office to be responsible for overseeing all suicide prevention and resilience programs of DoD military services;
- Ensures the continued maintenance of an additional 32 C-130 or C-27J tactical airlift aircraft, like those at the Mansfield Air National Guard Base and the Youngstown Air Reserve Station, to meet the Army's requirement of 40 dedicated aircraft to support Time Sensitive/ Mission Critical direct support airlift.

## Helping Veterans Find Employment

Just as we invest in our servicemembers while they are on the battlefield, we should do the same when they return home. But despite their service to our nation, an unacceptably high number of veterans struggle to find work. That is why it is imperative that we do a better job of connecting veterans with the support services they deserve.

Among these efforts is the implementation of the *VOW to Hire Heroes Act*, a new law that provides tax credits for employers who hire unemployed veterans and helps connect veterans with job opportunities. By helping to connect employers with unemployed veterans, Sen. Brown is working to ensure that Ohio's veterans and businesses take full advantage of the benefits provided, including a tax credit of up to \$5,600 for hiring veterans who have been looking for a

job for more than six months, as well as a \$2,400 credit for hiring veterans who are unemployed for more than four weeks, but less than six months. There is also a tax credit of up to \$9,600 for hiring veterans with service-connected disabilities who have been looking for a job for more than six months.



The *VOW to Hire Heroes Act* includes the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP), a joint Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Labor training initiative. VRAP provides unemployed veterans between the ages of 35 and 60 the opportunity to pursue training for new careers in high demand occupations. From welders, to paralegals, to teacher's aides, VRAP offers wide ranging opportunities for veterans seeking work.

## Working to Reduce the VA Claims Backlog

Far too many veterans cannot access the benefits they have earned in a timely fashion. In fact, more veterans than ever are contacting the VA to secure their benefits—since 2008, the department has seen a 48 percent increase in claims. Too many of these claims, especially those from Ohio veterans, are backlogged. This means that veterans—many of whom are seeking assistance to deal with service-connected injuries—are left waiting. These delays are compounded by the fact that too often veterans must wade through the VA application on their own.

In May, Sen. Brown introduced the *Veterans Services Outreach Act*, which would require the VA to notify veterans filing for claims electronically that there are advocates standing by who are ready to help. Specifically, the bill would require the VA to provide information about important, time-saving assistance available from VA-approved organizations including Ohio's county-based veterans' service commissions and veterans' service organizations. Sen. Brown also pressed Department of Veterans Affairs Sec. Shinseki to cut down on the VA claims backlog that has delayed veterans' benefits and compensation claims for Ohioans.

Claims efficiency is not enough. They must be fair. Ohio continues to lag behind the rest of the country regarding the amount of benefits received by individual veterans. From dead last a few short years ago, Ohio's ranking has improved, but that progress is not enough. Sen. Brown continues to work with the VA, including a continuing conversation with the VA Secretary and the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, to come up with the policies and resources needed to make timelier and fairer decisions for Ohio's veterans.

## Seeking an End to Veteran Homelessness

The U.S. must enact an all-hands-on-deck approach to combating veterans' homelessness—from the VA, to state and local governments, to non-profit and public service groups. In March, Sen. Brown met with Chanel Curry, a formerly homeless and current U.S. Army Reservist now living in Cleveland, who testified before the Veterans Affairs Committee regarding veterans'



homelessness. The hearing was titled “Ending Homelessness Among Veterans: VA's Progress on its 5 Year Plan.” Chanel’s story is similar to that of too many servicemembers. They serve bravely in uniform—but face difficulties when they return home. Our men and women in uniform, like Chanel, have served us in so many ways, and when they return from service, we must repay the favor. That includes ensuring that not one veteran is forced to live on the street.

## **Ensuring Veterans Receive the Educational Benefits They Earned and Deserve**

Thanks to the Post-9/11 GI Bill, military servicemembers and veterans are able to take advantage of tuition assistance benefits—but some for-profit colleges are attempting to take advantage of men and women in uniform by flooding them with deceptive and aggressive marketing and recruitment pitches. Sen. Brown applauded an Executive Order issued in 2012 that will help crack down on deceptive and misleading practices targeted at veterans utilizing their GI Bill educational



benefits, as well as provide better information to military servicemembers so they can make informed choices about their educational future.

In advance of Ohio public universities and community colleges’ transition from the quarter system to the semester system, Sen. Brown called on the U.S. Department of Veterans’ Affairs (VA) to ensure that Ohio veterans receive their GI Bill benefits without interruption. Higher education administrators from many of the 17 schools transitioning this past summer expressed concerns about the delivery of GI Benefits that provide for tuition and housing stipends for Ohio’s veterans. In a letter to VA Sec. Shinseki, Brown urged the VA to coordinate with Ohio’s colleges and universities to ensure a smooth transition.

## **Helping Veterans Pursue a STEM Education**

The United States has a shortage of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) graduates and with so many veterans taking advantage of expanded GI Bill benefits, we want to encourage them to capitalize on their military experience by pursuing STEM degrees while providing them additional benefits to help alleviate the financial strain studying a STEM field can entail. In August, Sen. Brown introduced the *GI Bill STEM Bump Up Act*, which would provide additional support and incentives for veterans pursuing degrees in STEM fields. By providing veterans through the GI Bill additional financial support, for high demand career fields we can better serve our nation and our veterans.

## **Assisting Veterans Affected by Natural or Other Disasters**

*The Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012* provides a number of important benefit improvements to America's veterans including, after more than 30 years, providing benefits for those adversely affected by the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. Sen. Brown authored a section of the bill, based on his Veterans Disaster Assistance Bill, which provides the authority for the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to declare natural disaster status similar to other agencies like the Small Business Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture. Once the Secretary declares a natural disaster under Public Law No: 112-154 the VA may:

- Provide additional Grants for Disabled Veterans for Specially Adapted Housing;
- Extend Subsistence Allowance for Veterans Completing Vocational Rehabilitation Program;
- Waive Limitation on Program of Independent Living Services and Assistance.

## **Record Investment in the Department of Veterans Affairs**

As Congress continues to face tough budgetary battles, it is critical that resources for veterans remain complete and not part of the political rancor in Washington. Sen. Brown is working with his colleagues to ensure that any budget cuts do not affect the VA or its services to veterans.

## **Ensuring Veterans Make Ends Meet in Today's Economy**

Congress passed a law in late 2012 to increase veterans' compensation through a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA). Sen. Brown cosponsored the *Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2012* which will affect several important benefits, including veterans' disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children. It is projected that more than 3.5 million veterans and survivors will receive compensation benefits in Fiscal Year 2013. The Veterans' COLA Act of 2012 will:

- Give veterans and their families an extra \$500 in benefits for the 2013 year;
- Adjust cost-of-living rates for almost 4 million veterans and their families to guarantee that their benefits grow along with inflation hikes;
- Increase disability compensation for veterans and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children;
- Supplement the previous Act with a 1.7 percent increase; and
- Adjust to allow disabled veterans accepting clothing allotments to use the benefits of Veterans' COLA.

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# In Touch with Ohioans

Sen. Brown is working to ensure that Ohioans stay informed of important issues as well as of his work in Congress and across the state. He has travelled to all of Ohio's 88 counties, holding more than 200 roundtables across our state.

His website – <http://brown.senate.gov> – includes interactive resources for Ohioans to directly access services, find information on issues and legislation, and learn the latest news from Sen. Brown's activities across Ohio and in Congress. He also sends e-newsletters, weekly columns, and regional updates that address issues important to Ohioans and collect their input and ideas. You can sign up for both regional and issue-specific newsletters through his website at <http://www.brown.senate.gov/newsletter>.

You can also hear directly from Sen. Brown on Twitter by following his @SenSherrodBrown account or viewing his profile at <http://twitter.com/SenSherrodBrown>. Ohioans can watch videos of Sen. Brown or listen to remarks on hot button issues on his YouTube page, <http://www.youtube.com/user/SherrodBrownOhio>

If you have any questions for Sen. Brown, please do not hesitate to contact him using the form on <http://www.brown.senate.gov/contact>.

## Sen. Brown's Office Locations

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